



# OKEECHOBEE NEWS

Vol. 99 No. 295

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

50¢ Plus tax

## Briefs

### Chamber will be closed

The Okeechobee Chamber of Commerce will be closed on the following dates: Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve; Dec. 25 - Christmas Day; Dec. 26; Jan. 1, 2009 - New Years Day; Jan. 2, 2009. Also, there will neither be a Coffee Klatch nor General Membership luncheon for the month of December. For information call the Chamber at 863-763-6464.

### Red Cross class dates slated

The Okeechobee Branch of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Health & Safety classes in January: Tuesday, Jan. 6 - First Aid Basics at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14 - Infant/Child CPR/AED at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Adult CPR/AED at 6 p.m. All classes are held at their Branch office located at 323 N. Parrott Ave. To register, or for more information call 863-763-2488.

### Glades County officials sworn in

The County Commissioners and newly Re-Elected County Officials of Glades County will hold their Installation Ceremony on Tuesday night, January 6, 2009 at the Doyle Conner Center at 7:00 P.M. County Commissioners Butch Jones; District 1, Paul Beck; District 3, and Bob Giesler; District 5, along with Sheriff Stuart Whiddon, Clerk of Courts Joe Flint, Property Appraiser Larry Luckey, Tax Collector Gail Jones, and Supervisor of Elections Holly Whiddon will be sworn into office. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

### Drought Index

**Current: 602**  
Source: Florida Division of Forestry  
Local Burn Ban: None

### Lake Levels

**14.07 feet**  
Last Year: 10.25 feet

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Source: South Florida Water Management District. Depth given in feet above sea level

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See Page 2 for information about how to contact the newspaper.

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# 33 seek to lead Brahmans

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

The School Board released a list of coaches who have applied to become the next Okeechobee High School Football Coach on Monday.

On the list are Rex Erwin, the long time defensive line coach for the Brahmans, former Brahman Junior Varsity head football

coach and former President of the Okeechobee Citizens Recreation Association Bob Hardman, and Okeechobee Pop Warner Football President and former Brahman player James Shockley.

The other candidates in alphabetical order are Danny Adams, Clyde Alderman, Early Babb, Jeremy Beckman, Gene Boley,

Eddie Carnley, Jason Chappell, Perry Coggin, Robert Crowley, Chris Davis, Matt Dixon, Chris Dorminey, Craig Everhardt, Brian Ferguson, Charles Halfey, Alan Hall, Frank Hall, Chip Harris, Kit Hill, Paul Horne, John Kelly, John Launius, Cliff Lohrey, Andrew McEvoy, Klay Smith, Ryan Sulkowski, Michel Timpson, Garon Warwick, Robb Wilgoren

and Inverson "Ivey" Williams.

A seven-member committee has been created to review the applications and conduct interviews which are scheduled to begin on January.

All of the local candidates will be interviewed.

The committee will make a recommendation to High School Principal Toni Wiersma who will

make a selection, most likely by the end of January.

Assistant Superintendent Ken Kenworthy said that the district was pleased with the quality of applicants they received for the position.

Some of the applicants have former or current head coaching experience.

## Cops for Kids: Spreading holiday cheer



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
Personnel at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office were all smiles as they wrapped and prepared toys to be given to children in six local families so that they can have a Christmas this year. Left to right are Major Noel Stephen, Sergeant Mark Roberts, Lieutenant Lester Yeates, Road Patrol Administrative Assistant Lisa Baisley and Sheriff Paul May.

## Deputies make Christmas possible for local families

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

Too often all the public knows about law enforcement officers is that they take people from their families and put them in jail. Seldom are they seen as people — just like everyone else.

But deputies at the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) have started an undertaking that is aimed at not only helping those less fortunate, but showing that they, too, are human.

The OCSO Cops for Kid's Christmas program will see to it that six local families will have a Christmas this year, and that the young children in those families will have new clothes and toys.

"We just wanted to give back to the community," said OCSO Lieutenant Lester Yeates.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
Lieutenant Lester Yeates (left) of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office, along with Shirley Gorham (center) and Nancy Turner (right), prepared Christmas gifts to be given to local children in six needy families. Personnel at the sheriff's office collected cash donations from road patrol, detectives and administrative personnel in order to buy clothes, toys and a Christmas dinner for the families in the department's inaugural Cops for Kid's Christmas. Ms. Gorham and Ms. Turner, both members of the Citizen Observation Patrol, had spent two days wrapping gifts.

"We wanted to show the children that we're just people."

See Deputies — Page 2

## Real Life Children's Ranch provides a family Christmas

By Pete Gawda  
Okeechobee News

"With chaos" is how house mother Mary Young says she will celebrate Christmas with her six foster girls ranging in age from 9 to 17 at Real Life Children's Ranch.

Real Life Children's Ranch exists to provide a Christian residential group home that cares for boys and girls who are physically, sexually or emotionally abused, homeless, neglected or mildly disturbed. The home strives to provide a consistent, well-structured

environment characterized by a healthy balance of discipline, recreation, education, outdoor and indoor chores, spiritual guidance and character development. The goal of the ranch is to give children the best care possible in a secure family atmosphere, and to guide them into personal Christian experiences and happy, productive futures.

Mrs. Young and her husband, Bob, are one of four sets of house parents who care for 24 foster children. Each home has six foster children and does things as a family. The children live as a

family unit, attend local schools and raise livestock as 4-H and FFA projects. Some of them are on the Bits and Spurs 4-H Club's mounted drill team. Mrs. Young is in charge of the drama program.

The Youngs and the other foster parents try to provide a home atmosphere for children who may never have had a secure home environment. Sadly, one of the children said what she liked best about Christmas at Real Life Children's Ranch is that it is "safe."

For many of the children, this

See Ranch — Page 2

# Boater is found safe

## Deputy injured during search

By Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee News

A missing boater was found safe early Monday by an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Search and Rescue unit about 3 miles south of Lock 7.

While the ordeal ended well for Jason Correll, an OCSO deputy required medical attention after he wrecked his patrol

car while searching for Mr. Correll.

An OCSO report states Mr. Correll, clothed only in a T-shirt and shorts, and his pet bulldog fought off the cool and breezy night by covering themselves with a tarp. The report states Mr. Correll's 1992 Marathon boat was found anchored at the site where he was recovered.

When he was found, the air temperature was 58 degrees and the wind was out of the north at 8 to 12 mph, according to official records at a weather

See Boater — Page 2

# Unemployment levels show little change

By Charles M. Murphy  
Okeechobee News

Unemployment levels stayed virtually the same in November according to the latest report from the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program.

Okeechobee had 10 percent unemployment in Novem-

ber, the same rate as October. There were 1,832 people out of work in November and 1,849 in October.

Glades County had 7.6 percent unemployment in November. That was down from eight percent in October. Twenty more people had jobs in Glades County in November.

See Levels — Page 2



Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda  
Mary Young stands beside the Christmas Tree in her home at Real Life Children's Ranch where her six foster children will celebrate Christmas. On the wall behind her are pictures of some of the children she and her husband Bob have cared for during their almost 16 years at Real Life Children's Ranch.

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# Boater

Continued From Page 1

station located at Okee-Tantie. The man had gone through the Taylor Creek locks Sunday afternoon, but when he didn't return home, a concerned neighbor contacted the sheriff's office. At 4:30 a.m. the Glades, Hendry, Palm Beach and Martin County sheriff's offices were contacted and told that a missing boater may have drifted into their areas. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was also notified and planned to search the area from the Indian Prairie Canal to the Kissimmee River. Aircraft from the Palm Beach

County Sheriff's Office flew over the lake from J & S Fish Camp to Clewiston, and personnel from the Glades County Sheriff's Office searched from Clewiston to the Indian Prairie Canal. Mr. Correll, 33, was found by the OCSO Search and Rescue Unit around 7:45 a.m. He told the rescue unit that he had run out of gas, and even though he had a marine radio, he was unsure of how to operate it. The man and his dog were returned home and did not require medical attention, stated the OCSO report. Since the OCSO does not tow disabled boats unless they are hindering navigable waterways, Mr. Correll was instructed to make arrangements to recover his boat as quickly as possible.

OCSO Deputy Steven McKinley was also back on his feet Monday after having seven staples put in his forehead to close a laceration after he crashed his patrol unit into two palm trees around 3:15 a.m. Monday. The 28-year-old deputy was driving to the Lock 7 boat ramp while shining a spotlight toward the lake in hopes of finding Mr. Correll when the crash occurred, said OCSO Detective Ted Van Deman. An OCSO accident report indicates that Deputy McKinley was west bound when he came up on a curve in the road that is lined by palm trees. The report said instead of making the curve he drove straight and struck a palm tree with the rear quarter panel on the driver's side of his Ford

Crown Victoria, then struck a second palm tree head-on. "There is no indication of braking prior to the crash," states the report. On impact, the in-car computer jarred from its stand and struck Deputy McKinley in the forehead. According to the report, when fellow deputies arrived at the crash site Deputy McKinley was disoriented and bleeding from the forehead. He reportedly told his fellow deputies that he didn't know what happened. "He was looking for someone and woke up," stated the report. Captain Bud Slay, who heads up the OCSO road patrol, estimated the value of the deputy's patrol unit at \$10,000. He added that he was waiting to hear if the car would be declared a total loss.



Okeechobee News/Eric Kopp  
Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Steven McKinley was injured when he crashed his patrol unit into two palm trees near Lock 7 while looking for a missing boater early Monday, Dec. 22. Upon impact the in-car computer was dislodged and struck the deputy in the forehead. The deputy was taken to Raulerson Hospital where seven staples were used to close the laceration. It was not known as of newspaper deadline if the OCSO patrol unit would be declared totaled.

# Deputies

Continued From Page 1

Lt. Yeates said he and OCSO Sergeant Mark Roberts began taking up donations from road patrol deputies, detectives and other OCSO personnel in November. "The minimum donation was \$10, but one family gave \$200," explained Lt. Yeates. That money was then used to buy clothes and toys for the six families, as well as a Christmas dinner of turkey with all the trimmings. Each family also received a \$20 Walmart gift card. Lt. Yeates said each child will receive a jacket, a pair of jeans and a toy. The family unit will receive the dinner and gift card. "We've contracted with a local caterer to cook and deliver the food and we'll deliver the toys on the evening of Christmas Eve," he added. "All the families will have to do is warm up the food." These recipients of kindness include a family who is having great financial difficulty because of a young child undergoing cancer treatments. In another case, the family has fallen on hard times and is now living in a tent. In yet another case, a local family is struggling because the chil-

dren's father has been called back to military service and is currently in Iraq. One family was chosen because they help others in need, despite their struggles to make ends meet. This family helps other neighborhood families with food, transportation or whatever their needs may be even though they have needs of their own. Although each family is different, they are the same — struggling every day to live the American dream. Lt. Yeates said the idea for the new OCSO endeavor was the brainchild of Sgt. Roberts. "He came up with the idea, then we began throwing ideas around," said the lieutenant. Both Lt. Yeates and Sgt. Roberts are assigned to the OCSO School Resource Officer program. Lt. Yeates said the schools gave them a large number of names. That large pool of names was then narrowed down to the six families chosen. Various criteria was used to make the selection with one being that they couldn't have an extensive or current criminal background. "We then got ideas from the schools on sizes and toys the kids would want," explained Lt. Yeates. Then, with the money col-

lected, the deputies began to purchase clothes and such toys as Hanna Montana dolls, bicycles, remote controlled toys, a skate board and a Razor scooter. He said they also purchased six MP3 players. "One family has seven children, with the oldest being 17. We gave the oldest child an MP3 player," said Lt. Yeates. The Cops for Kid's Christmas, however, wouldn't have been possible without the backing of Sheriff Paul May. "The sheriff allowed us to do it, supported it and believed in this," said Lt. Yeates. Because their initial endeavor has been so popular with everyone at the sheriff's office, the lieutenant said he would like to continue the program next year. "We don't want to get too big because it's a large chore, but we would like to expand some in the future," he said. "We just want to give back to the community and help out." And helping is what this undertaking is all about. "Christmas is more than just toys," said Lt. Yeates. Indeed it is. It's about having more than a bulletproof vest behind that star on their chests.

# Ranch

Continued From Page 1

is the first real Christmas they have even known and they will receive their first Christmas presents. The celebration starts Christmas Eve when the children get to open one gift. They will meet with the children of the other foster families to celebrate and hear the reading of the Christmas story. This year they will celebrate the fact that four of the children

will soon be adopted. Christmas Day is a family celebration in each of the four foster homes. This year a donor has provided all the food for the Christmas dinner for each of the four families. "Our kids are blessed," Mrs. Young said, referring to the fact that the community is very supportive. Mark Mayers, executive director of Real Life Children's Ranch, agreed. He said churches and other groups all show concern for the children.

"We don't put a lot under the tree until Christmas morning," Mrs. Young said. She has huge stockings for her foster children that are too large to hang up. As a testimony to the impact that Christmas has on the foster children, some adults who spent time at Real Life Children's Ranch in their younger days come back for Christmas. **Post your opinions in the Public Issues Forum at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com). Reporter Pete Gawda can be reached at [pgawda@newszap.com](mailto:pgawda@newszap.com).**

# Levels

Continued From Page 1

The unemployment rates this year are much higher than the 2007 levels. There was 5.8 percent unemployment in Okeechobee in November, 2007 with 1,013 out

of work. Glades County had 4.8 percent unemployment last year with 223 on the jobless line. Okeechobee was tied for fifth highest among Florida Counties in November. The highest rate was in Hendry County at 11.9 percent. Glades County was tied with two other counties for 29th in the state. The lowest rate in the

state was in Liberty and Alachua County who had 4.9 percent unemployment. Martin County had 5.5 percent, Palm Beach had 7.6 percent, St. Lucie 10.4 percent, Highlands nine percent, and Osceola had 8.2 percent unemployment during November.

# Lotteries

The Florida Lotto - Numbers selected Monday in the Florida Lottery are: **Cash 3:** 1-5-5; **Play 4:** 5-8-3-2; **Fantasy 5:** 8-10-12-15-16. Numbers selected Tuesday are: **Cash 3:** 5-7-4; **Play 4:** 9-3-8-8.

# Okeechobee Forecast

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.  
**Wednesday Night:** Areas of fog after 2am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

# Extended Forecast

**Thursday:** A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
**Thursday Night:** A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63. East southeast wind around 5 mph.  
**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 82. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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# Report: mom feeds baby as husband runs red light

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A man was arrested Saturday, Dec. 20, on a misdemeanor charge of reckless driving after he ran a stop light and stop sign while his wife was breastfeeding a baby.

Ismael Castaneda Heriza, 21, S.E. 13th Ave., was also arrested on a misdemeanor charge of no valid driver's license. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$1,000.

The North Carolina license tag on Heriza's vehicle was also seized.

An Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) arrest report by Deputy J. Hickman states that when he saw a 1990 maroon Honda automobile make no attempt to stop at the red light on

S.R. 70 W. at N.W. Fifth Ave. he tried to stop the car.

The car, reportedly driven by Heriza, then stopped at the red light at the intersection of S.R. 70 W. and U.S. 441 N., at which point the deputy turned off his emergency lights. Heriza then turned left onto U.S. 441 N. and the deputy activated his emergency lights and siren, the report continued.

Heriza, stated the deputy's report, looked into his rear view mirror several times but would not stop. Instead, Heriza continued north on U.S. 441 until turning right onto N.E. Fourth St.



**Ismael C. Heriza**

The driver also ran a stop sign at the intersection of N.E. Fourth St. and N.E. Fourth Ave., stated Deputy Hickman.

At this point the deputy saw a baby seat in the back seat of the car and a woman in the front seat, so he decided to discontinue his attempt to stop the Honda.

But, in the 500 block of N.E. Fourth St., Heriza stopped, got out of his car and was placed in handcuffs.

Deputy Hickman said Heriza's wife had "... an infant child in her lap (and had been) breastfeeding the baby while the vehicle was in motion."

The report indicates that Heriza was also issued a traffic citation for not having the baby in a child restraint.

# Local man hit with beer bottle

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A Georgia man has been arrested for allegedly hitting a man in the face with a beer bottle while at a local nightclub.

Michael Wayne McMullen, 22, Chattahoochee Avenue, Blakely, Ga., was arrested early Saturday, Dec. 20, on a charge of aggravated battery. He was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail under a bond of \$50,000.

Deputy Donald Ellis of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) stated in his arrest re-

port that the 32-year-old victim went to Raulerson Hospital to receive medical treatment for an injury to his upper lip.

The deputy's report states that the incident apparently started in the men's bathroom at restaurant/bar on U.S. 441 S. shortly after midnight on Saturday. The report goes on to say that the victim was getting ready to leave the bathroom



**Michael W. McMullen**

when he was allegedly struck in the face with a beer bottle.

Another man walked into the bathroom and McMullen reportedly pulled a knife and told the man and the victim to stay back.

Deputy Ellis went on to state in his report that another witness heard the noise in the bathroom and when he entered the bathroom he saw McMullen on top of the victim.

The deputy's report went on to state that the beer bottle was broken into tiny pieces, which were lying on the bathroom floor.

# Pregnant woman charged with battery

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

A mother-to-be was arrested after she allegedly struck another woman about the head and face during an argument.

Gloria Ann Boswell, 20, N.W. Third St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 9 on a charge of felony battery and a misdemeanor charge of resisting a law enforcement officer without violence.

Due to her pregnancy she was released from the Okeechobee County Jail on her own recognizance.

Boswell was seen arguing with the victim in front of a home

on N.W. 12th St. and then striking the female victim about the head and face, stated an arrest report by Officer Jack Boon of the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD).

Officer Boon's report states that as he tried to intervene a crowd of 15 to 20 people began to close in on him and the group was becoming angry. He then had to push another woman out of the way in order to grab Boswell, who resisted his attempts to arrest her, continued his report.

The OCPD officer went on to state in his report that he was forced to draw his taser to keep the crowd at bay until other of-

ficers arrived to help.

Although Boswell and the victim were checked by medical personnel from emergency services, neither were taken to Raulerson Hospital for treatment.

Boswell was booked into the county jail and then released.

The officer's report also stated that Boswell's attack apparently stemmed from an earlier confrontation between the two women.



**Gloria Ann Boswell**

# Local man charged with assault, battery

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee man was booked into the Okeechobee County Jail after he reportedly hit both a man and his wife in the face with his hand.

Tony Jackson, 19, N.E. 16th Ave., was arrested Saturday, Dec. 20, on a felony charge of aggravated assault. He was also arrested on a misdemeanor battery charge.

Jackson's bond has been set at \$6,000.

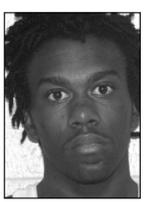
The incident took place at a smotel on U.S. 441 S. after Jackson knocked on a room door around 9:15 p.m. When the male victim opened the door Jackson tried to gain entry, stated an arrest report by Deputy Justin Akins of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Of-

fice (OCSO).

Apparently the two men knew each other from the day before when Jackson asked for, and received, a cigarette and a beer from the victim.

Then, on Saturday, Jackson returned to the room and as he tried to gain entry the male victim grabbed the door and tied to pull it closed. But, before the door was closed Jackson reportedly hit the male victim in the forehead, stated the report.

The male victim's wife then went to the door and was reportedly hit in the mouth by Jackson, Deputy Akins stated.



**Tony Jackson**

When the deputy arrived to speak with the victim Jackson was not around. Deputy Akins reportedly told the victim to call the OCSO if Jackson returned.

A short time later Jackson returned and the victim alerted the sheriff's office.

Deputy Rusty Hartsfield was first on the scene and reportedly found Jackson leaning against a car and holding a 3-foot long wooden post with a nail protruding from the end.

When Deputy Akins asked Jackson what he was going to do with the post, the man reportedly replied that he was waiting for the male victim to come out of the motel and then he was going to hit him "... in the head with the nail."

# Arrest Report

The following individuals were arrested on felony or driving under the influence (DUI) charges by the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO), the Okeechobee City Police Department (OCPD), the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) or the Department of Corrections (DOC).

- Matthew Presley, 25, S.W. 98th Place, Miami, was arrested Dec. 19 by Deputy William Maerki on a charge of aggravated battery. His bond was set at \$20,000.
- Alexander Gonzalez Gonzalez, 35, N.W. 30th St., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 19 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with possession of cocaine with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Archie Lee Smith, 61, N.E. 13th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 19 by the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with sale of cocaine (two counts) and possession of cocaine with intent to sell. His bond was set at \$65,000.
- Jennifer Marie Eastman, 30, Chobee St., Buckhead Ridge, was arrested Dec. 20 by Deputy Mark Shireman on a charge of driving

under the influence. Her bond was set at \$500.

- Kelvin Lynn Yarbrough, 39, U.S. 441 S.E., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 20 by Deputy Corporal Paul Ferrell on a charge of driving while license suspended/revoked - habitual offender. His bond was set at \$5,000.
- Bobby Mitchell Kemp, 23, N.E. 39th Blvd., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 20 by Sergeant Tom Turner on a charge of driving under the influence. His bond was set at \$500. Kemp was later arrested by DOC's Joseph Cracchio on a charge of violation of probation - robbery. He is being held without bond on that charge.
- Justin Wilson Honeycut, 19, N.W. 26th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 22 by Deputy Paul Jackson on an Okeechobee County warrant charging him with burglary to a conveyance. His bond was set at \$2,500.
- Brent James Havens, 26, S.E. 12th Ave., Okeechobee, was arrested Dec. 22 by Deputy Brian Cross on a warrant charging him with fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer. His bond was set at \$5,000.

This column lists arrests and not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Anyone listed here who is later found innocent or has had

the charges against them dropped is welcome to inform this newspaper. The information will be confirmed and printed.

# DUI enforcement crackdown planned for holiday season

## Drunk driving: Over the limit. Under arrest

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America's roadways due to an increase in drunk driving. Since 1981, every President of the United States has proclaimed December as *National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month*. In an effort to get impaired drivers off of the roads, the Florida Highway Patrol is joining with hundreds of other state and local law enforcement and highway safety officials across the nation from Dec. 13-31, to launch an aggressive national campaign - Drunk driving. Over the limit. Under arrest.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in December 2007, 992 people were killed in crashes nationwide that involved a drunk driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher, which is above the

legal limit in every state.

"The holiday period is typically a time for celebration," said Colonel John Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. "We want to make it a safe time for everyone. No amount of good cheer will be able to save you from the consequences of drunk driving. If we catch you, we will arrest you. No exceptions. No excuses."

In 2007, 12,998 fatalities occurred nationwide in crashes involving a driver who had a .08 blood alcohol concentration or higher compared with 13,491 in 2006. Colonel Czernis emphasized the critical role law enforcement plays in reducing the serious problem.

The Florida Highway Patrol recommends designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive drunk as just two simple steps to avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving. Other important tips include:

- Plan ahead: Whenever you plan to consume alcohol, designate your sober driver before going out and give that person your

car keys.

- If you are impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a friend or family member to get you home safely.
- Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to law enforcement. Dial \*FHP (\*347) from your cell phone to contact the Florida Highway Patrol.

For real time condition reports as well as maps and other safety tips, the public is urged to use our Live Traffic Crash service on the FHP Web site at [www.flhsmv.gov/fhp](http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp).

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles encourages anyone with a valid Florida driver license or identification card to go online to [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov) and enter their emergency contact information. This vital information gives law enforcement immediate access to this information in cases of an emergency, which makes it easier for them to contact a family member or friend.

# Ex-boyfriend charged in attack

**By Eric Kopp**  
Okeechobee News

An Okeechobee resident has been booked into the Okeechobee County Jail, accused of hitting another man in the back with a machete.

Carmelo Alcantara, 25, was arrested Friday, Dec. 19, and charged with aggravated battery. His bond was set at \$25,000.

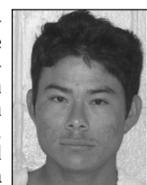
The 21-year-old victim received a gash to the upper right portion of his back, stated an arrest report by Deputy Yamil Astacio of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO).

According to the arrest report, the incident occurred around 8 p.m. when Alcantara went to the home of his former boyfriend in regard to some money owed to the victim's sister by Alcantara.

Alcantara then reportedly invited his former boyfriend back to his home in order to give him some money to give to his sister. The two men then went to Alcantara's bedroom where a struggle between them apparently started.

The victim freed himself from his alleged attacker's grip and when he did Alcantara allegedly retrieved a machete from under his bed, continued the report. The victim ran from the house with Alcantara chasing him with the machete, stated Deputy Astacio.

Apparently, during the chase, the victim was hit in the back with the machete. After the alleged attack Alcantara ran eastbound on S.W. Second Way, added the report.



**Carmelo Alcantara**

Alcantara was later found by a detective with the Okeechobee Narcotics Task Force.

Deputy Astacio's report goes on to state that the machete has not been found, but he was able to photograph the victim's injuries.

The OCSO report does not state if the victim received medical treatment for his alleged injuries.

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**CHOOSE LOVE**

BIG LAKE HOSPICE has been a wonderful choice for my mother and us. Mother is able to continue living at home with the care she needs. They have done more than care for her, they have shown love and compassion for our whole family. Big Lake Hospice is not just about dying—it is more about living and coping with a terminal illness of someone you love.

-JuDeane Garrett  
Daughter of Mary Helen

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Mary Helen and her husband, Dean, at the beach in 1934

# Speak Out/Public Forum

**Speak Out has moved online, where it is quicker and easier to share your ideas and converse with others. Go to www.newszap.com, click on the community name and your local or state Public Forum. There, you can create new topics or comment on existing topics. What follows is a sampling of some of the discussions currently taking place.**

### Thanks for participating!

**BIG THREE BAILOUT:** While Washington lolly-gags around and drag their feet granting a loan that's been requested, White House included, has anybody thought if, (God forbid) we have another world war like WW II, who will convert their factories to building our war machines? I'm sure the foreign car makers will pack up their factories and go home as they don't help much in our conflicts anyway. So, all you people who keep thinking that Detroit makes sub standard vehicles, just think about maybe your sons, daughters, or loved ones going off to war in a Toyota Tank or Lexus troop carrier or a Nissan 6x6 truck. We lose the big three we are not only out of jobs but will have to import everything and who will be left to buy any of these goods but our dear politicians who will be the only ones with a pay check. This could stop also as no one will be left but them to pay taxes. Think domino effect.

**DOGS:** We really have a problem in Okeechobee with dogs running loose. I have a fenced yard and I have had stray dogs dig under my fence to get in and attack my pets. Things are just out of control. The animal control office needs to step up patrols and catch these dogs that are just running loose all over the place, especially in the residential neighborhoods where there are small kids at risk. School will be out for the holiday break and kids will be riding bikes and skateboards and walking to friends' houses. I sure don't want to see any kids attacked by dogs.

**FISH:** What is going on with Lake Okeechobee. It seems there aren't any fish. Is anyone catching fish?

**OBAMA:** I'm so pleased Obama was named Man of the Year. The fact that he ran for and was elected President of the United States says it all. He is destined for great things, this president of ours.

**CHRISTMAS:** I don't understand how people can say they "aren't religious" but they celebrate Christmas. Christmas is a religious holiday. The name is a combination of "Christ" and "Mass." It is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. That is the meaning of Christmas.

**HONEYMOON:** Well, it sure looks like Obama has charmed the media. If you listen to the TV people, he can do no wrong. Of course, they elected him so I guess they got what they want. And I hope they are right about him, I really do. But what happened to the watch dogs of the government? It seems they would rather be the president-elect's lapdogs.

**WATER:** I completely agree with the complaints about the city water. Why can't they clean it up so that it looks and tastes better. Actually, water should not smell or taste at all, that is the problem. When water has a strong smell and a distinctive flavor, something is wrong.

**RIDES:** Can anyone recommend places to take horses to go trail riding in the area? I see a lot of people have horses. I am planning to get a couple horses after the first of the year. Seeing all the horses around the county, I assume there must be places to go riding. Can you ride around Lake Okeechobee? Are there some public access places to ride near the river?

**TOYS:** I am so pleased to see how many toys have been donated to the Christmas toy drives in town. I know people here are hurting financially, but it is obvious they still find it in their hearts to help others.

**RESTAURANTS:** I have heard rumors that two of the local restaurants that closed will be reopening under new management. I hope that is true because we need more places to eat in Okeechobee. And if they do reopen, I hope folks will give them a try. Don't listen to what someone else says, see for yourself. I know one place that never really got off the ground because rumors were spread. Don't listen to rumors. When a new place opens, check it out for yourself and form your own opinion.

**FOOTBALL:** I believe they should try to do something about the new district that our high school football team is in (15-4A). Having to travel to Gardens, Lake Worth, and West Palm Beach is not fair. You shouldn't have to travel and hour & 30 minutes to play district games. District 14-4A has Sebastian, Central, Martin County, and South Fork. All of those games take less than an hour to get to (except Sebastian) and that should be the district that Okeechobee is in.

**BACK ROADS:** This time of year, a lot of us try to avoid the traffic by using the side streets and back roads. Be warned, the people who live in the residential areas these side streets run through are sick and tired of speeders. If you are going to use the side streets, obey the speed limit. Most of these roads are 30 or 35 mph. And I want to compliment the sheriff's office for sending the deputies to patrol these areas and stop the speeders. These are not highways. They are streets in residential areas. Show some respect to the people who live there and obey the speed limits.

**ADOPTION:** I am curious about something. A few years ago, there was a big fuss about white people adopting black children. There were many in the black community who said this was terrible, that they should not let white people adopt black children and that it was bad for black children to be raised by white parents. Well our new president was raised by his white grandparents and he turned out just fine. So does that mean they will back off and let people adopt children without worrying about the race of the parents or the child? Isn't the most important thing that children be raised by people who want them and love them?

**SHEEP:** Given the last eight years, foreign countries might be able to breathe easier knowing the American people can elect a better president with different policies and different views than the current administration, given the trouble they have caused. A gullible sheep to me would be someone who is still believing that Obama was not born here, despite the evidence which proves he was. Or someone who would believe that he was Muslim or a terrorist just because of his middle name. Or perhaps someone who believes he is the Antichrist because so many people like him. Creating excuses to hate Obama and following them blindly even with the mounting evidence that proves them wrong would be something a sheep does. Liking Obama just because he's black, or just because the majority of people do would also be a sheep. But having a reasonable explanation for liking or disliking him is not. Just because someone likes Obama does not mean they are a sheep. Just because someone hates Obama does not mean they are a sheep.

**BRIDGES:** O.K. every year we have this problem. People, when you are driving over a bridge, do not stop to enjoy the view! The folks in the cars behind you would like to get where they are going. If you want to stop and rubberneck, then pull off the road. Slowing down to a crawl or stopping on a bridge is very dangerous as you interrupt the flow of traffic. The driver needs to watch the road and keep going. Maybe you can take turns and let someone else drive so you can sightsee.

**SCHOOL BOARD:** No matter how hard we try to make rules black and white there are always going to be shades of grey that need to be dealt with without burdening our school board with them. I still believe, given the facts, the case of the student who forgot she had an acne pill in her backpack should have never gone any farther than the principal and certainly should never have got past the superintendent. There comes a point where common sense has to take over. Two school board members were prepared to dismiss a student for the remainder of the year because of their inability to understand how to apply this rule within the intent of the rule using reason and common sense, that's a problem. That's a problem regardless of the standing of the student.

**OBAMA:** They make such a fuss about Obama being the first black man elected as president. Well he is just as much white as he is black. In fact, he was raised by his white grandparents. He didn't know his father because his parents split up when he was very young and his father lived in another country. I guess that makes him everybody's president.

# Letters to the Editor

## Where is the Transparency?

As a nation, we are witnessing the Federal Reserve giving \$800 billion to solve the nation's economic crisis. Actually, the commitment is over \$7 trillion. But for a moment we will ignore the big United States picture and just focus on Florida.

The South Florida Water Management District is deciding to purchase land from U.S. Sugar for \$1.34 billion to protect the Everglades. This purchase comes at a time when Florida is saddled with a \$5.8 billion budget shortfall. Where is the transparency?

Back in 2007, this same organization purchased 12,000 acres for \$51,813,488 from Mabry Carlton Ranch, Inc. in Sarasota County. Wow!

To the ill-informed this \$52 million purchase has little meaning.

The seller, Mabry Carlton Ranch, Inc. have sold the ranch and must re-locate other property.

Not so fast!

"Purchasing the remaining title to the 4,746-acre property will add significant acreage to Myakka core conservation area. The additional 7,630-acre conservation easement will provide a buffer of compatible agricultural lands. Under the terms of the 7,630-acre conservation easement, the property owner may only construct a maximum of seven residences and a log cabin on the property. Cattle operations, limited agricultural operations and hunting will be allowed. The owner has also agreed to follow District guidelines to preserve the property's water resources and natural systems." [emphasis added]

So they sell the ranch and get continued use of the property. It would be interesting to see if or who pays property taxes on this property, if anyone.

Under terms of the sale, Southwestern Florida Water Management and Sarasota County government will maintain a portion of this property at an estimated cost of over \$70,000 per year.

Just like the games being played in Washington.

So who owns Mabry Carlton Ranch, Inc? The Senator Pro-Tempore Lisa Carlton, her mother Barbara Carlton, and her sister Sarasota County Judge Kimberly Carlton-Bonner.

So, when the Everglades property is purchased from U.S. Sugar, who gains and who loses?

At a time when many Florida families are having a difficult economic time!

Signed electronically  
Sincerely,  
**Thomas Horrigan**

## Jesus is the reason for the season

We are quickly approaching the time of year when we who call ourselves Christians or believers will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It has become unpopular and politically incorrect to mention Him in holiday greetings or anywhere else publicly. It seems that other religions may be offended at this name. It is O.K. to talk of Buddha, Mohammed or any other deity, but don't use the name of Jesus or there may be protest.

Change is coming to this country and it may appear to be for the better temporarily, but the calm won't last. One thing we had better not let change is that we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the one and only true Savior of the world. Dust off your bible and read again where He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Isaiah tells us that the government shall be upon His shoulders, not the other way around!

Humanism is taking over the

world and they say that Jesus is only "a God," not the true God. They categorize him right along with other so called deities. But the graves of Buddha and Mohammed are still holding their remains while the tomb of our Lord is empty! I just can't force myself to worship a dead God.

The first time Jesus came, He was born in the humble surround-

ings of a stable. The next time He returns to earth He is coming as the King of all Kings. It won't matter then what the politicians or atheists say or do. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is supreme!

Happy birthday Jesus, I still call you "Lord!"

**Rosemary Duvall**

# Community Calendar

## Wednesday, Dec. 24

**Martha's House** support groups meet each Wednesday. Spanish groups meet from 7 until 8 p.m. at the Okeechobee Christian Church, 3055 S.E. 18th Terrace. Ana Romero is the group facilitator. Another group meets in the Okeechobee County Health Department, 1798 N.W. Ninth Ave., from 5 until 6 p.m. with Irene Luck as the group facilitator. There is another meeting from 6 until 7 p.m. with Shirlean Graham as the facilitator. For information, call 863-763-2893.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **A.A.** Grapevine Group Open Discussion at 6:30 p.m.; **N.A.** Nowhere Left To Go Group 8 p.m. \*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

**A.A.** meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St. It will be a closed discussion.

**N.A.** meeting at 8 p.m. at the Just For Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 Fifth Ave. For information call 863-634-4780.

**Bingo** at the Buckhead Ridge Moose Lodge. Food will be served at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Public is welcome.

## Thursday, Dec. 25

**Okeechobee Stitchin' meets every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 North Parrott Ave. Bring your sewing project and join in on the fun. All types of sewing is welcome, such as quilting, applique, embroidery, crocheting, knitting, serging. Bring your sewing machines if you like to sew. For more information call Belinda Boyle at 863-357-0166 or Corry Geissinger at 863-467-2231.**

**Tantie Quilters** meet every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Historical Society Museum on U.S. 98 N. For information call Margaret at 863-467-8020, or Marie at 863-357-0868.

**Just for Today Club of Okeechobee**, 101 N.W. Fifth Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (Behind Napa Auto Parts) **N.A.** Sickest Of The Sick Group Basic Text at 8 p.m.; \*The Just for Today Club of Okeechobee is not affiliated with any 12 step fellowships.

**A.A.** Closed big book meeting from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Church of Our Savior, 200 N.W. Third St.

**Family History Center** meets from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call Robert Massey at 863-763-6510.

**Kiwanis Club of Okeechobee** will meet from noon until 1 p.m. at the American Legion Post 64 501 SE Second St. All Kiwanis and the public are welcome. For information, contact Frank Irby at 863-357-1639.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. 47** will meet from 5 until 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. Please join us or ask questions. Call Phyllis at 863-467-8636, or Hazel at 863-763-4920, for information.

**Christian Fellowship Prayer** group meets at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall at 412 N.W. Sixth St. For information, call 863-763-5996.

**Cowboys for Christ** will meet at Dunklin Memorial, 407 N.W. Third Ave. Everyone is invited. For information, call Mike Fletcher at 863-357-6257.

**Grieving parents support group** is a nondenominational group of parents who meet every Thursday from 7 until 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross building classroom, Court Plaza, 323 N. Parrott Ave. To help support and comfort one another after the loss of a child through shared experience. For information call Georgene at 863-763-2957 or Melanie and Tony at 863-763-4149.

**Martha's House Inc.** sponsors weekly support groups for women who are, or have been, affected by domestic violence and abusive relationships. The support groups meet at 6 p.m. For information, call 863-763-2893, or call Shirlean Graham or Irene Luck at 863-763-2893 or 863-763-0202.

**Grief Support Group** for parents who have lost a child will meet at 7 p.m. The group will meet at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Ave. For information, call Stephanie at 863-763-2893 days, or 863-467-2480 evenings. If you know of someone that might need this group, please pass the word.

**Free Adult Basic Education/GED and English as a second language classes** from 7 until 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 701 S.W. Sixth St.

**Ongoing Caregiver Support Group** Hospice of Okeechobee and the Area Agency on Aging sponsor a caregiver support group every Thursday at 2 p.m. Anyone who is caring for an ill family member is welcome. The group is facilitated by social workers and provides an opportunity for caregivers to give one another support, information and ideas. The meetings are held at Hospice, 411 S.E. Fourth St. For information, call 863-467-2321.

**A.A.** meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. This will be an open meeting.

**Narcotics Anonymous** meets Thursday night for a Basic Step Meeting at 8 p.m. at the Just For Today Club of Okeechobee, 101 Fifth Ave. For information, call 863-634-4780.

**Narcotic Anonymous (NA)** meets at Believers Fellowship, 300 S.W. Sixth Ave. at 7 p.m. For information call Monika at 863-801-3244.

**Classic car show** at Beef O'Brady's, 608 S. Parrott Ave., from 6:30 until 8 p.m.

Depending on Christ **Depression Support Group** meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month out on Martin County Grade. For information and directions please contact Laura Lee at 772-597-0463.

**Family History Center** meets from 1 until 5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 310 S.W. Sixth St. Anyone interested in finding who your ancestors are is welcome to attend. There is Census, IGI (International Genealogical Index), Social Security Death Index and military information available. For information, call The Family History Center at 863-763-6510 or Richard Smith at 863-261-5706 for special appointments.

## Friday, Dec. 26

**Tops Take off Pounds Sensibly #669** meets at 9 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. The public is invited. All persons interested in a sensible approach to losing weight and becoming a part of a caring group are welcome to come and see what we are all about. For information, contact Ollie Morgret at 800-932-8677.

**A.A.** meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 200 N.W. Second St. It will be an open meeting.

**A.A.** meeting from 8 until 9 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 200 N.W. Third St. It will be an open speaker meeting.

**Highlands Social Dance Club** welcomes the public to their dance every Friday, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Sebring Lions Club on Sebring Parkway, one mile east of U.S. 27 in Sebring. Tickets are \$5 for members and \$6 for guests. For information, call 863-471-0559 or 863-385-6671.

Compulsive overeaters are invited to a weekly meeting. **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)** meets at the Okeechobee Presbyterian Church, 312 N. Parrott Avenue on Fridays, 6 until 7 p.m. (Use 4th Street entrance.) **Overeaters Anonymous** is not a diet club. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively. For more information call Loretta at 863-763-7165 or 863-697-0206.



Submitted photo/Okeechobee Animal Control

## Adopt a Pet

**This is 'Claude' an inquisitive, 3 month old, male, domestic medium hair. He loves to play with his toys, receive lots of affection and be brushed. His adoption fee is \$95 which includes his neuter, a feline leukemia/aids test, a rabies vaccine, FVRCP and FELV vaccine and a County license. All adoptions require a home visit and any other pets to be currently vaccinated against rabies. For more information contact Animal Control at 863-357 3225. Last week's lab is still available for adoption.**

# Okeechobee News

## Our Purpose...

The Okeechobee News is published by Independent Newspapers of Florida. Independent is owned by a unique trust that enables this newspaper to pursue a mission of journalistic service to the citizens of the community. Since no dividends are paid, the company is able to thrive on profit margins below industry standards. All after-tax surpluses are reinvested in Independent's mission of journalistic service, commitment to the ideals of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and support of the community's deliberation of public issues.

## We Pledge ...

- To operate this newspaper as a public trust
- To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- To provide the information citizens need to make their own intelligent decisions about public issues.
- To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate, not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- To disclose our own conflicts of interest or potential conflicts to our readers.
- To correct our errors and to give each correction to the prominence it deserves.
- To provide a right to reply to those we write about.
- To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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For More Information See At Your Service On Page 2

# Okeechobee County Health Department Report

**By Mitchell Smeykal**  
Okeechobee County Health  
Departments Preparedness and  
Response Coordinator.

cent to 20 per-  
cent of the pop-  
ulation gets the  
flu; more than  
200,000 people  
are hospitalized  
from flu comp-  
lications; and  
about 36,000  
people die from  
flu.



**Mitchell  
Smeykal**

Some people, such as older  
people, young children, and peo-  
ple with certain health conditions  
(such as asthma, diabetes, or

heart disease), are at high risk for  
serious flu complications.  
Symptoms of flu include: fe-  
ver (usually high), headache, ex-  
treme tiredness, dry cough, sore  
throat, runny or stuffy nose, mus-  
cle aches, stomach symptoms,  
such as nausea, vomiting, and  
diarrhea.  
How does the Flu spread? Flu  
viruses spread mainly from per-  
son to person through coughing  
or sneezing of people with in-  
fluenza. Sometimes people may  
become infected by touching

something with flu viruses on it  
and then touching their mouth  
or nose. Most healthy adults may  
be able to infect others beginning  
one day before symptoms de-  
velop and up to five days after be-  
coming sick. That means that you  
may be able to pass on the flu to  
someone else before you know  
you are sick, as well as while you  
are sick.  
The single best way to prevent  
the flu is to get a flu vaccination  
each year. The "flu shot" is an  
inactivated vaccine, (containing

killed virus), that is given with  
a small needle. The flu shot is  
approved for use in people six  
months or older. This includes  
healthy people and people with  
chronic medical conditions. YOU  
CANNOT GET THE FLU FROM  
THE FLU SHOT!!  
About two weeks after vac-  
cination, antibodies develop that

protect against influenza virus  
infection. Flu vaccines will not  
protect against flu-like illnesses  
caused by non-influenza viruses,  
like the common cold.  
Flu shots are still available,  
contact the Health Department  
for more information at 863-462-  
5819.

## Facts about the flu

The flu is a contagious respira-  
tory illness caused by influenza  
viruses. It can cause mild to se-  
vere illness, and at times can lead  
to death. The best way to prevent  
the flu is by getting a flu vaccina-  
tion each year. Every year in the  
United States, on average, 5 per-



Submitted photo

## Teen Dance

Teresa Chandler organized a teen dance at the Civic Center Dec. 20. Children from ages 12-15 enjoyed dancing, games, pizza, soda and chips from 6 until 10 p.m. Approximately 50 children participated raising over \$300 for the March of Dimes. The dance was sponsored by Seacoast National Bank and Raulerson Hospital. Thank you to Ding-a-Ling Deli and Dominos Pizza for their donations! Also, a big THANK YOU to the many volunteer/chaperones who helped make the dance possible! The March of Dimes will hold their 2009 walk on March 7 at Flagler Park. For more information, please call 863-697-6819.



Submitted photo

## New Horizons

Seacoast National Bank provided gifts for the New Horizon's Client Christmas Party, held on Friday, Dec. 19. Pictured are Rita Jones/New Horizons and Teresa Chandler.

## Department of Education announces holiday reading list

TALLAHASSEE—Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith encourages Florida families to share the gift of reading during the holidays by visiting the 2008 Just Read, Florida! Recommended Holiday Reading List. The list includes a wide variety of interesting books, each with a holiday theme that will spark the interest, imagination and love of reading for people of all ages.  
The gift of literacy is a wonderful way to keep children engaged in learning while they are away from school. Research suggests that students who continue to read while on holiday breaks and vacations maintain their academic progress made during the school year.  
To access the 2008 Department of Education's Recommended Holiday Reading List, visit <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/>. The Web site also offers parents the tools they need to nurture a reading-friendly environment at home. Resources available online include links to county and municipal public libraries and tips for parents on reading with their children.  
The Department of Education makes reading a priority in Florida's public schools and the community groups and volunteer organizations that support them. For more information about the Department of Education's Just Read Florida Office, please visit <http://www.justreadflorida.com/>.

## Main Street Clipboard

A great big welcome to our newest members:  
Total Car Care & Pressure Washing: Tracy Fay.  
Okeechobee Main Street membership renewal invoices have been sent out.  
The 14 Karat Gold Store is now one of five jewelry stores in Florida to carry Guy Harvey Jewelry. In addition to their other fine quality items they have a new line of men's jewelry made of Titanium, Silver and Tungsten  
The Okeechobee County Fair has a 10 day pass on sale for the 2009 County Fair for only \$30! The 2009 Okeechobee County Fair will be held March 13 through the 22. Passes can be purchased at Okeechobee Main Street 111 N.E. Second Avenue, call 863-357-6246 or at Syble's Flowers and Gifts 119 S. Parrott Avenue, call 863-763-2225. This year's fair will include the Second annual Miss Okeechobee County Fair Beauty Pageant open to girls age 15 - 19, the Seminole Heritage Show, the Okeechobee Cattleman's Spring Rodeo, Okeechobee Idol, Bike Show, Livestock Show, Pig Races, Blue Grass Music, A Demolition Derby and lots of food and rides on the midway.  
Communities in Schools Discount Cards are back! Get yours today and save at Beef O'Brady's, Jersey Mikes, Tires Plus Total Car Care, Dominos Pizza, Marble Slab, Flower Petals and more! Call 863-462-5863 to get yours today.  
The American Red Cross is assisting a family of five who lost their home and all their belongings in a fire last week. The family is in desperate need of clothing. Girl size 14 -16, girl size 18 to 24 months, boy size 4-5 (this child wears leg braces and needs shorts), Woman size 3X and Man Size 3X, pants 42 to 44. If you can help with any donations to this

family please call 863-447-6656.  
Okeechobee Main Street's first mixer of 2009 will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The January mixer will be hosted by Raulerson Hospital and will be held at their Company Care Office 1930 Hwy 441 north in the blue top building just north of the hospital. There will be refreshments, door prizes and a new beginning for the Mega 50/50 raffle that will be drawn in December 2009. This is a great networking opportunity for all.  
Raulerson Hospital will present a "Ladies Health Day" luncheon on Jan. 20 from noon to 1 p.m. at Indian River State College in the Raulerson Hospital Auditorium. Guest speakers will be Raulerson Hospital staff physicians James Bradfield M.D. Board Certified Gynecologist, Albert Bravo M.D., Board Certified Gastroenterologist and Internal Medicine and Philip Moyer M.D., Board Certified General/Vascular Surgeon and Diplomate American Board of General Surgery. This seminar will cover many of the new gynecology and health care services that are now being offered for women of all ages and the new "State of the Art" surgical procedures that are opening up regularly at the hospital. Reservations are required. Call Bill Casian at 863-824-2702 to register or for more information.  
The Okeechobee County Board of Realtors will have their Annual Fun Shoot on Saturday, Jan. 24 at Quail Creek Plantation. Monies raised goes towards scholarships for local students. For more information and to register call Jim Fowler at 863-634-4497.  
The Okeechobee Community Theatre will hold open auditions for acting roles in its upcoming production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" in January. There are both

speaking and non-speaking parts for white and African-American performers, with no previous acting experience necessary. There are also parts for three children of elementary to middle school age. Auditions for adults will be on Monday and Tuesday evenings, Jan. 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. Children's Auditions will be on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. Auditions will be held at the theatre on S.W. Second Avenue, one block behind the Golden Corral Restaurant. For more information call 863-763-1307.

**Brahman Theatre**

Starting Thursday, Dec 25  
We will be open on Christmas Day,  
at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM

For Info, Call 763-7202

**THEATRE I  
"MARLEY AND ME"**  
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun.,  
Tues. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00  
& 9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00.  
Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

**THEATRE II  
"A TALE OF DESPEREAUX"**  
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun.,  
Tues. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00  
& 9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00.  
Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

**THEATRE III  
"BEDTIME STORIES"**  
Fri. @ 7:00 & 9:00. Sat., Sun.,  
Tues. & Wed. @ 2:00, 4:15, 7:00  
& 9:00. Mon. @ 3:00 & 7:00.  
Thurs. @ 7:00 & 9:00.

**Tickets: Adults - \$5.50 • Children 12 & under - \$4.50  
Senior Citizens - \$4.50 all movies • Matinees - \$4.00  
MONDAY NIGHT is \$1.00 per person @ 7:00 PM**

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## Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted to the Okeechobee News by e-mailing [obits@newszap.com](mailto:obits@newszap.com). Customers may also request photos and links to online guest books. A link to the obituaries is available at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).

### Charles D. Myers, 89

OKEECHOBEE — Charles D. Myers, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, in Lawnwood Regional Medical Center. He was 89.

Born Oct. 20, 1919, in Odon, Ind., he had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1988, and was of the Methodist faith.

He is preceded in death by his wife Violet; son, Larry Arney; brothers, Shirley, Oliver, Paul; sisters, Susie and Ora.

He survived by sons, Charles R. Myers (Carolyn), of Spencer, Ind., Ronald R. Myers (Linda) of Loogootee, Ind.; daughters, Linda F. McCaldin (Dennis) of Glendale, Ariz., Mary F. Jones (Bobby) of Okeechobee; grandsons, Doug, Greg, Ronnie and Billy Joe; granddaughter, Angela, Stephanie, Lori, Dana, Rhonda, Secrina, Marlina; five great-grandchildren; sister, Marjorie Truelove of Odon, Ind., and his beloved dog, Angel.

The family received friends on Tuesday, December 23, 2008, from noon until service time of 2 p.m. in the Buxton Funeral Home Chapel.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

### Wayne Arthur Grebe, 74

OKEECHOBEE — Wayne Arthur Grebe, of Okeechobee, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, in Lawnwood Medical Center. He was 74.

Born Sept. 28, 1934, in Plymouth, Ind., he had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1989, and was a member of the Fountain of Life Church.

He enjoyed music, recording, composing and playing the organ in church.

He is preceded in death by a daughter, Michelle Belcher.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Grebe of Okeechobee; son, Robert Grebe of Jensen Beach; daughter, Suzanne Harris of Hinesville, Ga.; brothers, Leslie (Jeanette) Grebe of Knoxville, Tenn., Carl (Jolene) Grebe of Bremen, Ind., Larry (Mary) Grebe of Bremen, Ind.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

There will be no services of visitation.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

### Michael Andrew Barnes, 65

OKEECHOBEE — Michael Andrew Barnes, of Okeechobee, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2008, in the Hamrick Home. He was 65.

Born Aug. 26, 1943, in Hackensack, N.J., he had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1972 and served in the United States Air Force.

In addition he was a partner of BM TV service of Okeechobee for 18 years and served with the Okeechobee County Sheriffs Office Auxiliary, member of the Peace Lutheran Church and a member of the Moose.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie of Okeechobee; sons, Stewart Barnes of Utah, Ken Murphy (Alice) of Okeechobee, Gary Armstrong (Jessie) of Okeechobee; daughter, Lorraine Ramsey of Okeechobee; grandsons, Michael Barnes of Utah, Kenny Murphy of Okeechobee; granddaughters, China and Gypsy Barnes of Utah, Rachel Durrance (James) of Sebring, Beth Cantrell (Alan) of Okeechobee, Courtney Murphy of Okeechobee, Tabitha Armstrong of Okeechobee; great-grandchildren, Dylan, Gwen, Morgan, Garrett, Owen all of Okeechobee.

There will be no services or visitation.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE North East 5th St., Okeechobee.

### Judith H. Mendolera, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Judith H. Mendolera, of Okeechobee, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, in the Hamrick Home. She was 71.

Born July 30, 1937, in Mabscott, W.Va., she had been a resident of Okeechobee since 1981.

She was retired from the East Coast Migrant Program and worked as a caregiver for children. In addition, she was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, the Eagles and enjoyed yard sales, bingo, crafts, and camping.

She is preceded in death by her brothers, William Humphrey, Robert Humphrey, Patrick Humphrey; sister, Ann Houchins; and stepson, Vincent J. Mendolera.

She is survived by her husband of 32 years, James V. Mendolera; sons, Roger L. Williams of N.C., Keith A. Williams of Hubert, N.C., James A. Williams (Tina) of Pax, W.Va.; stepchildren, Rosilind Asselta of Vine-land, N.J., Robert J. Mendolera (Vonda) of Hopewell, N.J.; brother, David M. Humphrey (Kathy) of Magnolia, N.J.; sisters, Donna McClain of Cleveland, Ohio, Harriett Sooy (Denise) of Hopewell, N.J.; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, Lou and Edna Mendolera of Salem, N.J.; sisters-in-law, Angie Busnaro of Chicago, Ill., and Rose Reed of Millville, N.J.

There will be no public visitation or services.

All arrangements are under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 10 NE 5th St., Okeechobee, FL 34972.

### Irene E. Campbell, 94

OKEECHOBEE — Irene E. Campbell, died Dec. 22, 2008, in her home. She was 94.

She was born Jan. 12, 1914, in Oak Hill, W. Va. to Frank and Ruby Tredway. She was a homemaker having come to Okeechobee from Ashtabula, Ohio in 1998. She attended the Treasure Island Baptist Church.

Mrs. Campbell was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Campbell.

She is survived by her daughters, Sharon Bennett (Bobby) of Okeechobee and Judith Whited of Hockley, Texas; two sons, Larry Campbell of Akron, Ohio and Donald Campbell of Jefferson, Ohio; eight grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and sister, Virginia Smith of Conneaut, Ohio.

Visitation will be 4 p.m. Friday, until service time at 6 p.m. at Bass Okeechobee Chapel with Peter Gawda officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memory Gardens in North Kingsville, Ohio.

Instead of flowers, memorials may be made to Big Lake Hospice, 1201 SE Indian St., Stuart, FL, 34997.

Friends may sign the guestbook at [www.bassokeechobee.com](http://www.bassokeechobee.com).

All arrangements are entrusted to the loving care of Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory, 205 NE 2nd St., Okeechobee, FL, 34972.

### Anita Elaine Meyer, 71

OKEECHOBEE — Anita Elaine Meyer, of Okeechobee, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, in Raulerson Hospital. She was 71.

Born June 2, 1937, in Greenbush, Wis., she had been a resident of Dubuque, Iowa, since 1957 and a Winter resident of Okeechobee.

She was a member of the Holy Ghost Church and the Women of the Moose. She enjoyed volunteer work and reading.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Jerome; sons, Jerome Jr., William, Keith; daughter, Jolene Young (Emmet) all of Dubuque, Iowa; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; two brothers; and one sister.

Funeral services will be conducted by Behr Funeral Home, 1491 Main Street, Dubuque, Iowa, 52001.

All local arrangements under the direction and care of the Buxton Funeral Home and Crematory, 110 NE 5th St., Okeechobee.

## Community Events

### Food Drive under way

Affordable Art & Framing is sponsoring a Food Drive for The Okeechobee Presbyterian Church Emergency Food Pantry. Bring food or monetary donations to Affordable Art and Framing at 110 S.W. 14th St. (next to Old RJ Gators) through Jan. 1.

### Baby gift items sold benefit Healthy Start

The Healthy Start Coalition has various gift baskets of household items for sale. Also, the Coalition has a variety of diaper cakes, diaper wreaths and other curious diaper items that make a wonderful gift idea for a baby shower or for someone special having a baby. Items are decorated with a variety of baby essentials such as thermometers, socks, onesies, medicine spoons and such. Some items are prepared and ready for sale, diaper sizes vary. Prices vary from \$10 to \$40. The Coalition will also take orders for future occasions and will make an item according to your specifications. All proceeds are used to fund direct services to Healthy Start clients. Services to our clients are free and include parenting education, childbirth education, car seat education, psychosocial grief counseling, infant care, emergency transportation, breast feeding education/support and tobacco education. Support the Coalition by purchasing one of our gift items.

### Welcome House offers programs

Welcome House is now accepting applications. Membership is free, if you are at least 18 years of age and have an emotional or psychiatric diagnosis, or if you are under a doctor's care or simply taking medication for emotional problems, they welcome you to drop in and join the circle of friends. Welcome House offers scheduled activities at least three times a week such as: arts and crafts, support groups, outings, and presentations. They are open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Hilda or James at 863-467-1026.

### Christian Mental health support group

Do you suffer with depression, anxiety or other mental illness? The Christian Mental Health Support group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. on Martin County Grade. Call 772-597-0463 for more information. Family members are welcome.

### Quit Smoking Now classes offered

The Okeechobee County Health Department (OCHD) offers a Tobacco Prevention and Education Program for the community. The purpose of the program is to reduce adult and youth tobacco use, and provide tobacco resources to residents, businesses and community organizations in the county. For information, call 863-462-5781.

### Diabetes Support Group at Hospital

Raulerson Hospital offers a monthly Diabetes Support Group which meets on the second Thursday of each month in the hospital cafeteria at 2 p.m. If you have any questions please call the program coordinator, Wanda Haas, R.N., B.A., C.D.E., C.P.T., at 863-763-5093.

### Red Cross offers HIV/AIDS course

The American Red Cross-Okeechobee Branch offers a basic HIV/AIDS instruction course that complies with Florida employment requirements for individuals working in various vocations. This is a self-study course that includes text work and the successful completion of a multiple choice written test. The cost of the course is \$15. Call the local Red Cross office at 863-763-2488 for information.

### Addiction consultation offered

Problems with drug or alcohol addiction in someone you know, but don't know where to turn? The Drug Rehab Resource service can give you the help you need. Contact the Drug Rehab Resource at 866-649-1594 for a free confidential consultation. Or, go to the web site at [www.drugrehabresource.net](http://www.drugrehabresource.net).

### Cancer support group to meet

Okeechobee County Cancer Support Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. All cancer patients, survivors and supporters are welcomed to attend, support and encourage each other. They meet the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 401 S.W. Fourth St. Please contact Susie Pickering at 863-467-5831 or First Baptist Church at 863-763-2171 for more information.

### Cancer Society seeks volunteers

The American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteers who are interested in making a difference in the fight against cancer. Volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Florida Division participate in programs that support research funding, educate the community, deliver services to patients and advocate for policies that help defeat cancer. To get involved, call the American Cancer Society at 800-ACS-2345.

### Narcotics group to meet Tuesdays

Narcotics Anonymous will begin meeting every Tuesday at noon. Meetings will be held at the Just for Today Club, 101 N.W. Fifth St. For information, call 863-634-4780.

### Healthy Start group seeks donations

The Healthy Start Coalition is accepting donations of baby items such as furniture, shoes, clothing, maternity clothes, strollers and other items for infants and toddlers. Proceeds from the sale of donated items will be used to benefit infants and pregnant women in the community. For information, call 863-462-5877.

### Depression support meets

Depending on Christ is a support group for men and women suffering from depression. They meet every Thursday. For information, call 772-597-0463.

### Blood donors are needed

Florida's Blood Centers is looking for blood donors in Okeechobee. The Big Red Bus mobile unit will be at the Wal-Mart parking lot, 2101 S. Parrott Ave., on the last Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For information, call 561-845-2323, ext. 1203 or 772-215-8360. All blood types are needed. There is no upper age limit, and most medications and conditions are acceptable. Diabetes and blood pressure donations can also be accepted. A picture ID is needed for all donors.

### Pregnancy financial assistance available

Are you pregnant? Have you been turned down for Medicaid? Healthy Start may be able to help. For information, contact Becky Smith at 863-462-5877.

### Narconon offers help via hotline and website

It's heartbreaking to watch someone addicted to drugs or alcohol lose their children, jobs, home, health and self respect to their addiction. Do something about it now! Narconon Arrowhead has Certified Chemical Dependency Counselors available to help. In your local area, call Narconon at 1-800-468-6933 or log on to [www.stopaddiction.com](http://www.stopaddiction.com).

### We want your news

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from the community. Email your news to [okeenews@newszap.com](mailto:okeenews@newszap.com), to reach even more readers, post your news online at [www.newszap.com](http://www.newszap.com).

### U.S. Coast Guard

### Auxiliary to do vessel exams

Okeechobee-The Lake is back and so are we. Flotilla 57 - U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary we are ready to do vessel exams. They are free and we will come to you, we make house calls. Call 863-763-9570 to make and appointment to examine your boat and get it certified with a sticker.

### YMS collecting printer cartridges

Yearling Middle School (YMS) is collecting empty printer and copy toner cartridges. They are sent in for credits that go toward school supplies to be used by all students. To donate empty printer or toner cartridges, they can be dropped off at YMS, 925 N.W. 23rd Lane or at the Stitches Post, 620 S. Parrott Ave. Or call Miss Webb at 863-462-5056 or Linda at 863-467-1484 for free pickup.

### Sour Orange Fest has new date

Lakeport will have the Sour Orange Festival on Saturday, Jan. 10, (new date for 2009). They are looking for vendors, volunteers, and patrons. If interested call 863-227-4323 or attend the next Lakeport Community Association meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 at the Community Center.



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For a complete list of Obituary Notices, click on your community, then click on "Obituaries".

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**We honor our friend,**  
**Gary Isaacs**



Many people walk in and out of our lives but only good friends leave footprints in our hearts. Gary was one of those friends.

Gary was not only a dedicated sponsor to our junior golf program, but more importantly a wonderful friend who brought joy to our lives.

Our deepest condolences to Gary's family.  
We will deeply miss him and will always honor him.

*Jim and Bridgette Waldau*  
*Waldau's Junior Golf*

**NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS of Waste Management**

With Christmas being on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, customers whose garbage is picked up on Thursday, will be picked up on Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Friday pick-up will move to Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

**Waste Management will be closed on Christmas Day Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

From the Staff & Management of  
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It's a wonderful world. Explore!



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# Local churches plan special holiday services



## Places of Worship

Share your news and photos for this column by email to pgawda@newszap.com

By Pete Gawda

Okeechobee News

**Peace Lutheran Church**, 750 N.W. 23rd Lane, will have a **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service** at 7:30 where the choir will present special music. The church is collecting Christmas presents of clothing and toys for the residents of Martha's House.

**Okeechobee Presbyterian**



There's a wonderful world around us. Full of fascinating places. Interesting people. Amazing cultures. Important challenges. But sadly, our kids are not getting the chance to learn about their world. When surveys show that half of America's youth cannot locate India or Iraq on a map, then we have to wonder what they do know about their world. That's why we created MyWonderfulWorld.org. It's part of a free National Geographic-led campaign to give your kids the power of global knowledge. Go there today and help them succeed tomorrow. Start with our free parent and teacher action kits. And let your kids begin the adventure of a lifetime.



**Church**, 312 N. Parrot Ave., will have a **Christmas Eve Candle Light and Carols Service** at 7 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church**, 200. N.W. Second St., will have a contemporary **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service** at 5 p.m. and a traditional Service at 7 p.m. For information call the church office at 863-763-4021 or visit the church website at www.fumcokee.com.

On **Christmas Eve First Baptist Church**, 401 S.W. Fourth St., will hold a come and go family Communion Service from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

A devotional weight-loss program will begin new classes on Tuesday, **Jan. 13** from 9 to 11 a.m. at **His House Fellowship Church of the Nazarene**, 425 S.W. 28th St. Registration for this

program will be Jan. 6 - 9. These classes will continue through April. Additional information may be obtained by calling 467-6330.

**St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church** in Buckhead Ridge will have Christmas Eve Mass in English on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. On Christmas Day, Mass will be held in French at 8:30 a.m.; in English at 10 a.m.; and in Spanish at 12 noon. The church is located on State Road 78 West at Chobee Loop.

**Brian Free and Assurance** will be in concert Saturday, **Jan. 3** at 6 p.m. at **Treasure Island Baptist Church**, 4209 U.S. 441 S.E. A love offering will be received. For more information call 863-763-7113 or 863-763-0550.

**Buckhead Ridge Baptist Church**, 8 Cypress St. N.E., will

have a **New Year's Eve Service** at 7 p.m. with a fellowship to follow. On Sunday, Jan. 4 at 8:30 a.m. the church will begin Early Morning Worship Service. Sunday school is at 9:45 with the Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m. Discipleship training is at 6 p.m. on Sundays with Evening Worship to follow at 7 p.m.

The Children's Theatre Troupe hosted by the **First United Methodist Church** presented "Silent Night: The Birth of a Carol" by Hal Hobson, Sunday evening, Dec. 14. The packed house was treated to a delightful enactment of the true story of the origins of the carol, complete with "church mice" that came out of the woodwork to sing. The group will sing for the residents at the Okeechobee Rehabilitation Center on Sun-

day, Dec. 21. There are plans for a spring 2009 production as well.

The Okeechobee News welcomes news from area churches for this column. Email

okeenews@newszap.com or call Pete Gawda at 863-763-3134, extension 4225.



Submitted photo/Riverside Bank

## Acts of kindness

The Riverside Bank team gave out free cups of hot chocolate and coffee at the park during the local Christmas Festival and spectacular night parade. This is just another wonderful and warm Random Acts of Caring provided by our friends at Riverside Bank. From left to right are: Sherri Enfinger, Relationship Manager; Tabitha Trent, Office Manager; Chase Trent, Tabitha's son; Brian Cooper, HUGS; Esther Banuelos, Senior Teller; Jamie Medrano, Teller.

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Sunday Worship - 10 am
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Okeechobee News/Pete Gawda

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# Letters to Santa

The following letters to Santa Claus were written by North Elementary School Second Graders. They are reprinted just as the children wrote them.

**Dear Santa,**  
der Sanu Iwnus Good thisyer-  
San I did bemetonymom andmy-  
dad andmySistr I whutautidodes  
fourchins and Iwhotatossie fonanda  
andatocscnd IPOD andaBod.

**Signed Anita P. Dear Santa,**  
I want anew bigbike. I want a wii  
for chirms to. I want some cand in  
my stocing and toys in my stocing. I  
hppe I want a lot of toys.

**Signed Ashlyn L. Dear Santa,**  
This is Pheobe I want a Phone for  
christmas. the next thing is a iPod.  
and then I want a digitalcamera and  
the last thing isa ripstick.

**Signed Phoebe Farris Mr. Smith's class**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a MP3Player, a PSP, a Play-  
station3. sum xboxGams, sum play-  
staion3Gams, and a forwillr.

**Signed Chris Dear Santa,**  
can you pleas give me a bike  
for christmas Because I list to the  
teacher and at home to. lam nice  
to my frends and my mom and dad.

**Signed Sarah Dear Santa,**  
I really want a Webkinz deer that  
looks like Bambi and I want a wii. I  
hope I'm on the good list. By the way  
I hope no polar bears destroy the  
presents. I really belive in you Santa.  
I hope you don't get hurt when you  
go down shimnees because they are  
hot. I was wondurind is Mrs. Claus  
doing fine. I hope I get what I want  
if it's not too difficult. Bye, bye, and  
bye.

**Signed Sarah Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want a telaphon.  
I don't have one. But my sister does  
have one. Santa I really need that  
thing for Christmas. And you know  
what. I want this thing because I do  
not have one. And I do not have one.  
Please bring this thing to me. I really  
need that telaphon.I promust to be  
good in class.

**Signed Love, Angela Dear Santa,**  
I want a bike fos chrixmas And  
I want a wretling sled cage match.  
And I want a clothes.And I want to  
get a four wheeler for christmas.And  
I want beller grades on teste.And I  
want a computes for christmas.And  
I want apuppy for christmas. I also  
want to go to georgia.

**Signed Enrique Dear Santa,**  
for christmas I would like to get  
a Red mustang with a mocgintrow  
and a yellow truck for my Broter and  
a truck with a trader that goes with  
is for me.

**Signed Bradley Dear Santa,**  
I want a ababby Dall and some

Oakleys  
**Signed Love, Corey Coleman Dear Santa,**

Can you bring me presents Santa  
like two presents Santa and i want  
all the kids in my class to get pres-  
ents for Christmas and I want a bike  
and shoes for Christmas.

**Signed April Dear Santa,**  
Can you please bring me a spe-  
cial thing for Christmas. I will tell you  
what I want for Christmas. I want a  
puppy that is yellow and brown and  
whith it's food and is will be nice if  
you please brind it for me.

**Signed Love, Evelyn Dear Santa,**  
First i want a fourwillir. Then i  
want a dirt bike, Next i want White  
Wheels. Last i want a shotgon. FI-  
nally i want ah AK-47, and a tomp-  
sing so i can go hunting with my  
dad.

**Signed DaineP Dear Santa,**  
I really want a Webkinz deer that  
looks like Bambi and I want a wii. I  
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Barbs. Can you bring me a dog, cat,  
Burd, puppys? Can you Bring Pink  
pants, and New Shows, and sum  
New Clows, can you Bring Me sum  
fake jures, and Hana Montena Lip  
Stek, and sum make up.

**Mrs. Garcia's Class**

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi how are you my name is  
Maci! really whon't a hampster so  
I can play with it and I will name  
it skiper.I also won't a coffe maker  
and a cup cake maker so I acan enjoy  
some coffe wille I am eating my cup  
cake and if you give me it next year I  
can make some cup cakes and coffe  
wille you put prestens under the  
tree.This one is going to be hard on  
the elfs I won't a phone so I can call  
my mom my dad and borther.I also  
won't some under wear so I will be  
cuniftbl wille I am sleeping.

**Signed Maci Weseman Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a book that I can write  
on santa. I whan a toy like a Lip Glos.  
I whant a cupeack.

**Signed Carolina Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing I want a lele  
pony and a little loveuble's and a car.  
I want a pony so I can rind the pony.  
I won't little loveubles so i can make  
a bear. I won't a racsing can so I car  
bars.

**Signed Carla Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a zero gravity because  
I need it ofr my collection. A book to  
I Love to read it is so fun to read.I  
also want a Nintendo DS that is col-  
ored black with a game that is called  
mario kart.So I can race people.

**Signed David Resendis Dear Santa,**  
How are you Santai'm so happy  
I want a bratz the one that has the  
hole body and a book about santa  
and a map.I want all of these things  
becaues it's going to be fun I will  
love you forever. Love Brendaesia,  
**Signed Brendaesia Byrd Dear Santa,**

how are you. I want a chawuwu,  
cause my dad sold cutter my cute  
dog. a little tutle cause along time I  
lost my petturtle, and a breb caus I  
need eggs

**Signed Colton Taylor Dear Santa,**  
Ha santa can you come to my  
home because I wot to see you  
Santa.

**Signed Gabriel Nunez Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing I want a little

otosico so I can play with my mo-  
tosico to Race cars. Then I want a  
toy of you so I can play christmas  
with my toy of santa. last Thing I  
want is a little hat of santa so I can  
put it on.

**Signed Jorge Olivares Dear Santa,**  
How ae you buing. I wunt a foory  
be cus that go fast. and wun of tose  
ladyi kely hecoptrs becus they are  
cool. and a basketball. bo you thank  
I cood hava ran dere.

**Signed Jacob Rediker Dear Santa,**  
how are you Doing i would like  
a Hannah Montana Doll and Roller  
Biabes i also want a prinsess Baby  
Doll.

**Signed Alexis Chittend Dear Santa,**  
Howare you doing would you-  
giveme three things for chirstmas I  
want a Jeep and a phone and a Bratz  
toy thanksanta

I live buy the Rodia 160 and it has  
a Blue derango  
**Signed Derra Byrd Dear Santa,**  
hall are you santa I well wont  
my fiene to be to get. bcas my fieme  
was not to getriesyer

**Signed Trevor Teele Dear Santa,**  
how are you doing. I woold like  
a little hot wismodericle and a toy  
Bebegun anddalatop.

**Signed Bailey Layman Dear Santa,**  
How are you santa I whant for  
chrimses musand that you can make  
casls. and a toy that is a dog Bisket  
that is in credibl and a real puppy.  
Love Santa

**Signed Marieht Barriera Mrs. Taylor's Class**

**Dear Santa,**  
What I want for Christmisms is a  
cupcake maker and this thing a nales  
that comes with glitter and a mashin  
that goes with it too. Will you breng  
sum thing to my mom Santa she  
wants sum julre for Christmis. thank  
you Santa for the presins.

**Signed Christina Vega Dear Santa,**  
I wold whant an iPod Pleas. And  
a D.S.

**Signed Johnathan Brady Pearce Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a ipod and a New  
bike. And can I have that pink ipod  
thing. with headfonus and I whant  
a real pone not a houes pone a real  
pone and I would like a cherleing

outtent. And I would like hat's and  
clos to gowith it. And then I can't  
thak of ining stuff. So you get me  
want ever you mont to give me.

**Signed Alexandra Dear Santa,**  
"I wood like to have a iponde the  
color wood be blake." "and iwood  
like a des and a whit one." The End.

**Signed Shalee Underhill Dear Santa,**  
I want an ipod and a intedow DS  
and mp3 player and I want a Heyyre  
potter Book and a trofe pockemon  
cards. some more candy.

**Signed Adrian Mattew Guerrero Dear Santa,**  
can You get me a PSP and a sk-  
cateboard. An neae pades andarm  
pades and an helmets.

**Signed Juan Rebollo Dear Santa,**  
I want jangle in my pokit. So  
Plese Bring it i really want it for chis-  
mas Plese Bring it in Bined very  
good my mom siy that a lot! So can  
you Bring it Plese i really want it now.  
For chismas Plese.

**Signed Alejandra Dear Santa,**  
I wood likea psp, skateboard,  
xbox36, playstahan3, and a Shrek  
Bookpag.

**Signed Brian Salazan Dear Santa,**  
I whant a ldog and cand and pre-  
sen and for my brothr and sister and  
I will make cooke.

**Signed Fabiola Garcia Dear Santa,**  
I want a whiat cat. Itkingyou are  
real I think you can't do sumthing  
about this but God can No drugs No  
starving kids No hurtingr animals  
and kids get alog

thinkg you  
**Signed Rachel Dear Santa,**  
Will yo please Bring me a new  
bike I will be very happy if you get  
me a new bike.

**Signed Blayne o'cain Dear Santa,**  
I want a black ntendow DS and a  
cilver gameboy and E game  
**Signed colvin knowle Dear Santa,**  
I woud like a ipod and a ntido  
ds and fon for crismas ples sataclos  
thack you

**Signed Steven Chance Deen**

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# Letters to Santa Claus

The following letters to Santa Claus were written by Central Elementary School Second Graders. The letters are reprinted just as the children wrote them.

**Dear Santa,**  
I have a few questions to ask you. How big is your sack and how are your elves and reindeers doing. Do you have a hot race car machine.

**Love, Zach Dear Santa,**  
I will give you a cup of hot cocoa and three cookies. Make sure you give me a pink nintendo DS

with a nintendo DS. Hello Kitty game and give my brother a nintendo DS.

**Love, Trina Dear Santa,**  
How is your reindeer and your elves and how is your life and how can you get in my house and how does elves make toys and how do you know if we are bad or good.

**Love, Ricky Dear Santa,**  
How are your reindeer doing? Reindeer, elves, Mrs. Claus in the

North pole. I love you Santa.  
**Love, Sean**

**Mrs. Janelle Johns and Mrs. Luz Rodriguez**

**Dear Santa,**  
I help a lot at school. I want for Christmas a saphone. Is Christmas your favorite day? Do you like coke? Do elves make toys? What dus elfs make? I don't have a chimany? I hope you like the cookies.

**Love, Sumer Dear Santa,**  
I have been nice to my sisters when they aske me to help clean up and I say yes I will help you. Can I ples have this toy for Christmas. A nintendo DS. I been good. I left cookies our for you Santa.

**Love, Katelyn Dear Santa,**  
Please can I have some presents for Crismas? If I can get a doll, power tv because for my dad don't have one. I hope you enjoy the cokies and carrods.

**Love, Annibelle Dear Santa,**  
I shold get a real horse because I helped put up the decorations for Christmas this year. I hope you enjoy the cookies.

**Love, Judele Dear Santa,**  
I deserv a lot of presnts because I help around the house. I help decorate the Christmas treee. For example, say my sister Faith put one candycane. Then I do all the toys and the rest of the candy canes.

**Love, Britany Dear Santa,**  
I have been very good because I make straight As in class and I'm trying very hard in my classroom. I'm good at reading and math

some times. I want for Christmas is money, Ipod, make up, those glittery things you put in your hair.

**Love, Dear Santa,**  
This year, I have been really trying my best in school. I want a trybot. I think I deserb that for Christmas.

**Love, Antonio Dear Santa,**  
This year, I have been good. I've gotten all As on my report card. I help my mom with chores. For example, I feed my horses and my cats. So that's why I think I should get presents for Christmas. I want a Wii, a guitar hero, a nintendo DS, and my mom to let me keep my puppy. That's what I want for Christmas. Can I please have it?

**Love, Kaitlyn Dear Santa,**  
I am trying hard this year. I whant a ramp for my skateboard. I whaant a Playstation 3 with the game. I whant a game for my xbox360. I whant new shoes there called Jordans. I think I should have shoes.

**Love, Carlos Dear Santa,**  
I have bin listening to my mom and dad. I have been good. I want a mp3 for Christmas. My mom told me I can get it so I don't get bored and I have bin also want a PSP and a Christmas dog to. Those are some things I want for Christmas.

**Love, Odalys Dear Santa,**  
I have been good these year. I ben Lesen to my two teacher. Mrs. Rogreges and Mrs. Johns, and lesen to my mom and dad. It's good to lesen to my teachers. For Christmas I want a Garbiela Dol, and a Hannah Montana dol, and a braselet and a frend for me. That's not all. That is what I want for Christmas.

**Love, Blanca Rosa Dear Santa,**  
I have been very good I have been keeping up my AR points up this week. My mom said if I get my room clend up my mom will buy me gifts for Christmas. What I whant for Christmas is the notebook that opens by your on vose.

**Love, Deborah Dear Santa,**  
This year, I have been good and getting As and Bs. I have ben listsinin to my mom and dad. I want a Wii this year. I want a game with it. Another thing I want is a pupie. Those are the things I want.

**Love, Natalie Dear Santa,**  
I have bin good this year. Will you please get me a Wii for Christmas? But Christmas isn't about presents. It's about God. My cookies are guest for you.

**Love, Cristian Dear Santa,**  
This year I have been good. I am trying good to pass 2nd grad. I wish for a Wii and I want a big tv and then I want a big pool something I want more toys. That's why I like Santa.

**Love, Miguel Dear Santa,**  
I have been good this year. I get As on my report card, be nice to people and go good on my math. I think I need a gator so I could learn how to learn the lesion. For

example, I think I should get it because I have tried to get a great grade.

That's for Christmas.  
**Love, Qwanaza Dear Santa,**  
Please can I have some presents because I did something right. I let my brother keep a toy and I let him play with my toys and I gave him a fruit roll up. I give him a soda and I shar with him my toys that I buy.

**Love, Jesus Dear Santa,**  
I deserv all this stuff because I been payin attention at school. This is what I whant for Christmas a Ipod, a high school musical game on playstation, a toy Gabriela doll, High School Musical 3. Iphone. Thank you.

**Love, Jessica Dear Santa,**  
I should have a good gift because I help my dad. I want a Wii for Christmas and some acshin fight and some games for the xbox. Do you love the cocis?

**Love, David Dear Santa,**  
I ben helping my mom with my brother. I whant a lot of toys for Christmass. Like a Hannah Montana doll. I hop you like cookies.  
**Love, Edana**



Okeechobee News/Katrina Elskan

## Must be Santa ...

Okeechobee area children had a chance to visit with Santa Claus during the Okeechobee Kiwanis Club's annual Santa in the Park event. Little Olivia was among the youngsters who climbed on Santa's lap for a serious conversation about the latest toys.

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## Children write about Christmas wishes

The following letters to Santa were written by South Elementary School second graders. The letters are reprinted just as the students wrote them.

**Dear parents,**  
I want a Nintendo DS, a bag full of money, a PlayStation, Xbox, and a Wii. I deserve these presents because I am a good boy.  
**Your friend, Jesus**

**Dear santa,**  
I want a scooter, a bike, a doll, and a lot of dolls, a dress, with a hat and I want a lot of dresses. and santa, I might bake cookies or not cause we might not have dough. cause we might not bake cookies. and get me some please and santa, I want a lot of money like 20 10 100 1 and 5 and I want a friend.  
**Love jayla Newton,**

**Dear . sant**  
I want a psp. I want a playstation. I want hieheels. I want a fourwheeler. I want shoes. I want a dog. I want mony.  
**Your friend jalen.**  
**Dear santa**  
Haw are you doing and rodof doing to. I want a fishingpole that you can tack into the oshan. Can I have some newe shoes and some closeto . cani have a remote control car. Can I have a labtopto. Can I have a xbox game . and a flat screen tv. And a pool tabol. A remote control boat that flots in the water. Ds and mareo game to go weth it. a bisicol.  
**To santa from JACOB.**

Dear santa claus,  
I what a wii.  
I what a x box 360.  
I what a gameshark.  
I what 5,000,000 dollars.  
I what a ds remember.  
**jacob**

**DEAR SANTA CLAUS,**  
I AM A GOOD GIRL MY NAME IS ILEN GARCIA. AND I WANT A BRATZ JOURNAL AND I WANT A LITTLE PET SHOP WITH A FRIEND AND I WANT A DOLL AND IS A DOG AND I LOVE SANTA CLAUS.  
**YOUR FRIEND, ILEN GARCIA**

**Dear santa ,**  
Im very excited for Christmas this year .iv been a very good girl this year.I hope you have a good chritmasthis year.this year I would

really really like a ds with games.i alvaise wanted 1 .iknow there icesneseve.so im getting one 4 christmas.my mom would love 4 the house 2 be clean.but you don't have 2 grant that wish.i do anofe of that I mean we do anof of that.i hope you have a good Christmas . merry christmas.  
**Your friend haley**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you are doing well .how is rodph.I hope He is okey to I would like for Christmas is a nerf gun a bike a watch and shades  
How is mrs. Claus I hope she is doing well to and how do the Elves make all the toys in the world? That fast ? and how did rodph nose get so bright how is rodph mom I HOPE SHE IS doing well .is rodph flying good.and I hope I am on the good list .  
**Yours truly EVAN Neal**

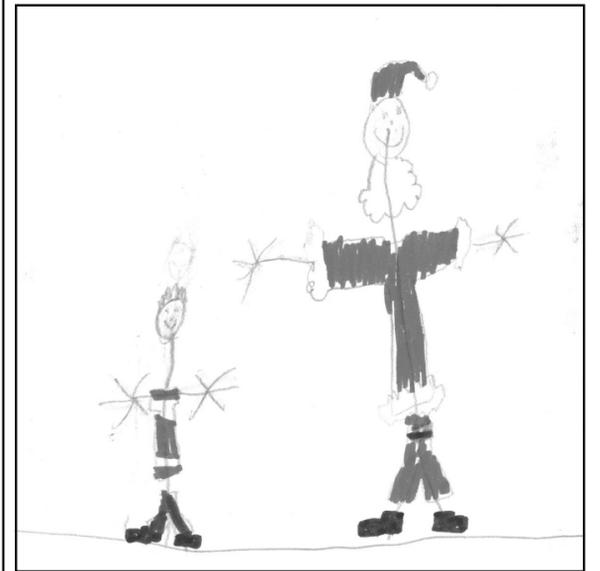
**Dear Santa**  
I am very excited for Chismas. I have been a very good student this year.I want a ripstick, Because I didn't get one for my birthday and I was soapstoe.  
**Ethan Cashwell**

**Dear Santa Claus,**  
I have always wanted to see you.  
I am excited for Christmas I want a phone for Christmas. How many elfs do you have? Were do elfs come from? Do elfs have babys? I have my Christmas tree.

Do reindeer talk?  
**love,**  
**Emily Beaty**

**DEAR SANTA CLAUS,**  
I LOVE YOU AND YOU LOVE ME AND I BELIEVE AN YOU AND I WANT A ERINGS AND I WANT

RING I DESERVE BECAUSE I AM GOOD BECAUSE I LISTEN TO MY TEACHER MRS. JENNINGS AND I LISTEN TO MY MOM.  
**YOUR FRIEND/ ELANA**



Submitted Art/Everglades Elementary School

**Me and Santa Claus**  
Caleb, an Everglades Elementary School Second Grader, drew this picture to send to Santa Claus.



Submitted photo/SES

**Fa la la la la...**  
South Elementary School kindergartners (left to right) Juliana Sheldon, Drina Aguilar and Brianna Yates sang Christmas carols at the SES Winter Carnival on Thursday, Dec. 19, under the direction of music teacher Ms. Shelby Schutt.

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# Children write letters to Santa

The following letters to Santa were written by Seminole Elementary School second graders. They are reprinted just as the students wrote them.

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope the reindeer are not sik. I hope I get a box of sogers for Christmas. How is Mrs. Santa Claus doing. Gods birthday on the 25!

**Yours truly,**  
**Jose**  
**Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing up there Santa Claus? Mrs. Claus, are you cold up there? Can you get me something like a game boy and a PSP for Christmas? Do you got a twinbrother? Is he evil? Are you good?

**Love,**  
**Allen**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How are your deer Santa and I hope you are coming safely and tight the rope tight to the deers and I love you Santa. I hope you give me presents and I wish you a merry Christmas and I want a Wii and lots of presents.

**Love,**  
**Marselino**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you will bring presents to boys and girls. I now I wunt for Christmas. I wunt a kitty for Christmas. My mom dusint had a Christmas tree for Christmas. We live in a trailer and have no chimney for you.

Merry Christmas Santa Claus.  
**Love,**  
**Leslie**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
I wish you a merry Christmas! I hope when its night the lights do not go off in your house. I am trying to be good. Would you, could you bring me a kitten for Christmas? I wish you good luck Santa! I can't wate until Christmas is here.

I am so happy.  
**Sincerely,**  
**Ashton**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How is your reindeer, elves and work shop? Can you bring me a ninow doll? Merry Christmas! We love you so much. I will miss you.

**Love,**  
**Danessa**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Santa Claus, How are the presents doing and how are your reindeer doing too? I hope you come safely and I like your reindeer. I was so sick on Tuesday, Santa Claus. I wish I get a game boy for Christmas and my sister wants one too. I love you.

**Yours truly,**  
**Jonathan**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I love you. I want to know how is your reindeer doing? Is it true that you have a reindeer named Rudoff the red nosed reindeer? Are you ok up there? I can't wait for Christmas. I hope you are ok. Thank you.

**Love,**  
**Esperanza**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a 4 wheeler for Christmas and a soccer ball and a toy car.

**Love,**  
**Saul**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Do you have a special twin and if I want somting for Christmas can you give me a dirtbike and a bike?

**Love,**  
**Ridge**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How are your raindeers? If you bring a toy I will be happy. My dad says my behavior is good. I worked hard to get a gift from you.

**Love,**  
**Pedro**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Hare are you doing this year. Is

this year good? I want a new Playstation game. Thank you Santa Claus. You have a lots of presents to deliver.

**Yours truly,**  
**Taylor**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How are you doing? How are your reindeers? I am so excited that you are coming to our town. I hope you get hear safely. Will you bring me moon sand?

**Love,**  
**Caitlin**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
I have been bad a little and a little good too. How is Rudolph the Riandeer doing in the north pole? Is it cold? It is not cold and not hot it is perfect. I want a DS and a playstation and a remote control car and a ipod with all the stuff that goes on it.

**Love,**  
**Fabian**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
You are the best preson I met you when I was little. I would want like the little pet shop! I ben a good girl. I also want a pink DS for Christmas and the Morioc Brother game. How is rudoff?

**Love,**  
**Maggie**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
I have been a good girl this year. I hope I get lucky. The incredible wonder pup oh! and please thank Rodolgh the red nose reindeer for giving me the letter but Santa have a good Christmas. I'll see you on the 25th. I love you Santa. You're the best.

**Your friend,**  
**Kalysta**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeers? I like Rudolph the red nose reindeers. I want to see the see the North Pole and the elves even the workshop too for Christmas. I want that dog my sister wanted. Have a happy merry Christmas Santa Claus and the elves even Mrss. Claus.

**Love,**  
**Ashley**  
  
**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for writing the Rudolph letter to me and how did you know my teachers name in the first grade. And I would like a computer a play station and two nintendo dss. Is Misses Claus doing alright or how about Rudolph are they? Oh and how about the elvs? Do you have any daughter or sons. And you are the best.

**Love,**  
**David**  
**Dear Santa,**  
How is Mrs Claws dowing. I know it is snowing. Candle would be good for Christmas. My dad hase seen you before. This is what I want for Christmas. I want a bike, cup cake maker and a phone. My mom wants someising. She wantes make up an perfume. When I come up there. I want to see you.

**Love,**  
**Lasaja**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
You are a good person because your holiday is the best because you give us presents and this is why I like your holiday. What I want is a Wii and I want a Xbox 360. I want a DS game, the name is Krsby, the game and I want a lpod. I want a chapter book and rocking fishing rode and that is why I like holidays.

**Your friend,**  
**Austin**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Your are the person I know. I want you to bring my family presents and put them under my Christmas tree. I live in Basswood Street. About the presents - my brother wants a game boy and me sister

gold rings and neckles. My little sister wants a little laptop. My sweet mom wants a gold watc. My sweet dad wants a birthday present. Finlly, my turn to say what I want an iPod for me. My Christmas tree will be full. Before I finish my letter I want to ask you one question. How is your wife doing?

**Your friend,**  
**Jackie**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How are the raindeer and Missis Claus doing. I hope yall are all doing good and is stiky doing good.

Is Rudolph nose glowing still tell him that I love him and the raindeer too. They are all cute. For Christmas I would like to have a barn with horses and cows. Are you having a jolly time. I hope you are. I can't wate until Christmas.

**Love,**  
**Jayne**  
**Dear Santa,**  
How is the raindeers and Mrs. Clas. Is she dowing good. Is it cold up ther? I want to see you. You and Mrs. Clas is so nice to give everyon prisonts. For Crismis I want a u tin-doy, a little drtbick, a silfone, little pitshop, exbox, bike, tv, rido, camputer, play stashon, pool, You are the best.

**Your frand,**  
**Shamyra**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
You are the best person in the world. I want you to be the president! I want you to bring presents for my family. I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a bike, a laptop and a song. I can't wait for my birthday on Dec. 6th. I want a iPod, mp3, clothes, pants and shose. Is Miss Clau good? Is Rudoff well? I hope everybuddy is all rite. You are the best. I love you. I allwase behave. Is it cold up there? I want you to tell me if all the people are ok? Have a happy Christmas. I harly don't want to wast you monney.

**Your friend,**  
**Diana**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
How are the raindear? Has Rudalph got what he whont? I hope so. I have bean good to.

P.S. I well like a iPod and a Hannah Montana, TV and a Hannah Montana head set and a Hannah Montana getturo. Have a good Christmas.

**Love,**  
**Veronica**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I am going to have a great Christmas. I hope you do to. You know that Christmas is Jesus birthday so it is like you are giving Jesus birthday presents. Am I right? You know I would like a Wii. You are the best,

**Your friend,**  
**Nate**  
**Dear Santa Claus,**  
Santa your the best person I ever met in my life. How is Rudolph Santa Claus? Is Rudolph happy with his friends? Are you going to use Rudolph this night? Santa may I have a game called Mario Kart DS.

**Love,**  
**Thomas**  
**Dear Santa,**  
You have been the best since I was born. For Christmas I want a ride that says Miami Hurricanes and lowrider and peace and joy and a rosey because on Christmas first we pray for God because that the day Jesses was born.

**Love,**  
**Nailen**  
**Dear Santa,**  
You are the best and you have a slay and I am going to buy a Christmas tree and I hope I get a present and I want a PSP.

**Love,**  
**Anthony**

**Dear Santa,**  
All I want is night vishon. You are a good man and I love you.

**Love,**  
**Nathan**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I am being good. I was wondering how you are doing with your elves. I want a race car with a remote control. I think you are a nice person. Santa I like when you are a nice person.

**Love,**  
**Jason**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I would like earings with my name. make up and two little dogs. a baby cat and give my family a givt.

**Your friend,**  
**Mariah**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I whot a iPod and Jordins and a dog and I wis I cud biy my family a gift.

**Your friend,**  
**Amber**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I waot a dog for Christmas. I want a DS for Christmas.

**Your friend,**  
**Mark**  
**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Kyle. What I want for Christmas is a wei for Christmas. I like you Santa. Your the best. You're red and white.

**Your friend,**  
**Kyle**  
**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I whant a wii and anxbox and a Hannah Montana and a wii and Brats music hair color and a Baby Alive and the little tinny baby that my mom wants allat and to give my family a presint and whishing a lot.

**Your friend,**  
**Casie**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I would like for Christmas is a laptop, iPod, phon, bick, mack up, money, xbox, pspgame boy, new clos, and Letendo PS.

**Your friend,**  
**Jacqueline**  
**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I wish I could get a PS2 and a iPod that has at lest 8 gigubits or more and a Nike ball.

**Your friend,**  
**Marcos**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a dirt bike and a DS. I want to be a hero football player and always be the quarterback. I wish that I didn't ever told on Jordan. I want a mustang and a motorcycle for Christmas.

**Your friend,**  
**Andrew**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I went to wish and money to bey my family a gift and a gift for mi friend Andrew and Adrian too. The end.

**Your friend,**  
**Jordan**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a DS for Christmas and a PS2 and I want a Wii and a exbox 360 and a tv and a gameboy and a lot of games for all the games and Sponge Bob game and muchoch car and a big TV and all the stuff for Christmas.

**Your friend,**  
**Adan Alex**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I wut a gladoll and a doll too. I am 8 years old. How is the rainders. I hope that they are good. How are the elves. and I hope you are good to. Have a good good Christmas and a happe Christmas and I will have a good Christmas to.

**Your friend,**  
**Cortney**  
**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I will like a pare of pants and sherts and the box of bakugan and can I have a new bookbag that is all black and I want a intendo DS and a xbox 360 and I will like a silver watch and I would like to get something for my parents.

**Your friend,**  
**Manuel**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a dirot bike and a soccer ball for Christmas to.

**Your friend,**  
**Scott**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a lpod and some make up and a dire and sume joly to.

Thas all.  
**Your friend,**  
**Elyxis**  
**Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing to day? I want a mongose bike and I want a DS game. I like Christmas because I get toys. I like those you gave to me last year.

**Your friend,**  
**Lucas**  
**Dear Santa,**  
All I want for Christmas is for everybody to have what they want even for people I hate and the people I love and what I want is a DS. Everybody doesn't believe in you but I do.

**Your friend,**  
**Ossie**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want 10 thangs from you Santa. Santa and I want a linendo DS and I want a iPod and a PSP and a lot of candy moshin and a lot of mor stuf.

**Your friend,**  
**Joanna**  
**Dear Santa,**  
When it is Christmas, I would like a four wheeler plus a Wii and a skate board.

**Your friend,**  
**Adrian**  
**Dear Santa,**  
I want a bike for Christmas. And a hellmint for Christmas and a baby doll. I want a gief for my family. I love you Santa. I wnat a DS for Christmas and a cat for Christmas.

**Your friend,**  
**Briana**

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# HOLIDAY DEADLINES

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Wednesday, December 24 @ 3 p.m. For . . . Sunday, December 28

*The Staff Of The Okeechobee News Wishes Everyone Happy Holidays!*

# Children Write Letters to Santa

The following letters to Santa Claus were written by North Elementary School second graders. They are reprinted just as the children wrote them.

**Dear Santa,**  
How have I been good or bad? I'll tell you what my sister wants first. She wants two Dora dolls. She also wants glitter lova. I also want glitter lova. I want a wireless laptop to. So when I want to play a game on mommy's computer I don't have to wait for mom to stop computer shopping. Happy Holidays, Santa!

**Love, Kennedee Brewer Dear Santa,**  
First do you now if I am good or bad? Next how is the elf doing. Then the is what I want for Christmas, Sonic Unleash. Last, how are you doing?

**Love, Matthew Schachtele Dear Santa,**  
Have I been good or bad? I have been good. Please give me prisms please. I want a robot that can do everything.

**Love, Jack Edwards Dear Santa,**  
Have I ben good? I hope I have. Because I want to get presents. I try to be good as I can! The first thing that I want is a Begle. The next thing that I want is a Brown ipod. Next I want a sparkly fone. Another thing I want is a Wii. Next I want a robot that wode do all the things I did not want to do. Next I want a flat screen TV. I also want a bike. Next I want a real dimen nexlis. and I want it to snow in Okeechobee.

**Happy Holidays! Love, Addy Sizmore Dear Santa,**  
How are your reindeer doing incloodin you? Reley I want a wii and a ipod, heelys(size13), 3030 gun, laptop, and futball gear. I also want a mokinutrl spy gear and a flatskren tv. This is what I want for chrismis.

**Love, Will Ms. Watford's Class Dear Santa,**  
I went a truck and a Bling Bling ipod and and a idog and a foot ball and a tv and d.s. and a wii and a game boy and a car and a bask ball and a base balle.

**Signed, D.J. Dear Santa,**  
I want a skouter and a Bike and a bollhouse. and a BarBeiy, but i want to get a coco tran that gouse around the crismes tree. I want a hows hor crismes. a lag-oe set for cresaMesa. and a for weler for cresaMesa and apool. and I whud Like a BarBeiy houses. A BaBy boll and clows for the BaBy-doll. and a Slepingslide and. a tedd Bare. a fack selfon I Want a inp3 player lpodcat .d.s some gemes for my play stachen2 some games and some clowes and a. now you know What I Want for cresmes

**Signed, Rylee Dear Santa,**  
What I Want for Chistmas is a ipod, a intendo DS, a Box fill uf Hotwels cars, a Woch, a Glob of the werdga Wenef dog, a small choc bord weth choya a rach-car weth are motl, a telly fona, a wagein weth my name on it, a game boy, a x-box, a Book Bag weth thers color Blac.  
**Signed, Gabriel Jr. Nunez**

**Dear Santa,**  
hy I am Mike you Live in the. north pole. I Whant a guatr hero woird tour and a l phone I whant to be your helper.

**Signed, Mike Haught Dear Santa,**  
Can you give me a hannah montana Shros for camistame. and a ds.

**Signed Bailey Dear Santa,**  
For chrismis I want a Dswith the new pokemon ranger game.I want a Big bog like the Big one I haveat home butl want a girl. I want a tiny real puppy.I want a trampulin. I want a basketball. I want a new tiny cat.

**Signed Dylan Dear Santa,**  
Can you give me a toy car. An pleas Dont come to late an I which I was in the noftit pol Whih you and your little. Friends the Albs.

**Signed Jesus Dear Santa,**  
I want a fake grill, or a fake iern, and a big...coshon! I want lots of toys for christmas. Like toy cashregeter and a grate big otamaticle car for mre and Abby. ow and did you see when I went to dolor tree. that mask, and I want a magic trik I want evey kind and a shiny wagon from home depot a tetey bare a pigy bank I want a gameboy and a ipod tuch. a new toy that you made a big hug an mp3 player a gold fish nitond DS a tuch phon a new patten eraser play stason2 and 3 and a regler.

**Signed Alondra Dear Santa,**  
I want more cd's for my kar-ooking machine. Hannah Montanah costume, free ticets to a hannah montanah concert for danille, baily ullisa, Rylee, Alnda, miarah and Shelby. A new agenda finder, new teddy bear a celectoin of dolls. P.S. I Whant the best crismas ever thank you.

**Signed Lyn'd Dear Santa,**  
I want mints for my pone. I want Hannah Montana shos and I want to have a grat cremas. I want new cran. I want mar-cors and I want a sopsis. I want a lpod. I want a plastsen3 and 6tr herw

**Signed From Danielle Dear Santa,**  
I want alpad. I want a forwler. I want a lfone. I want axbox36. I wanta game boy. Signed David Dear Santa, I want a latop for chresmes. Because i nefr got a latop. Be-cause my mom cant get one. Be-cause i dont have on mune.

**Signed Ullisa Dear Santa,**  
how good have your elvs ben. Santa be carful because I have a dog. I want a whip.  
**Signed Breid Mrs. Murrays Class Dear Santa,**  
I wantaHannah Montana bike for Christmas.To exercise in the morning.And a new necklace so I can werit in the prite. New berog-ame to so cane whith my broth. PS: I some cookies for you in the nighth.  
**Signed Aline**

**Signed Sebastian Dear Santa,**  
I wont some toys!  
No real dirt bike and a Nerf long shot and 50\$ a real car!!!! call duty of 4 and xdox360  
**Signed Austin Dear Santa,**  
I really want an Mp4 player. I want lots of perfumes. Some smells really good.I want some really good makeup.A gorgous bike. Daddy yankie cD. Hannah MontAnA shoes. mow you know what I want for chirismas.  
**Signed Rossa Morales Ruiz Dear Santa,**  
please bring me a DS, a PSP, and mp 3 palyer.  
**Signed Vanessa Trejo Dear Santa,**  
I want for chrismis. A nintindo DS? I want a barby Doll. I want a car for christmas. I want a prest-est for my mom. I want a pestent for me.  
**Signed Destiny Dear Santa,**  
I want a xbox 360. I want a toy car. I want a battle ship. I want cards. I want a magnets box. I want a Hot wheels cars. I want a pool. I want a game boy. I want a computer. I want a speed Borg. I want meg blox. I want a airplane.  
**Signed Alexander Soriano-Rios Dear Santa,**  
Do you want to hear what I want a football game to go with my play staytion. And a dog be-cause i like dogs.Now i want a bike. And a xbox360. And a psp because I like games. I want a comper to. I want a game boy. Now you know what i want for crimas.  
**Signed Larry KeyShawn Boswell**

**Dear Santa,**  
Please Santa bring me a DS, Netendo DS,hot wheels trik trak and a thekaybl for my Playstay-shienl, and a 5 px cammara game cude x box 360.

**Signed Toriesha Freeman Dear Santa,**  
Please Santa bring me a DS because I don't have a DS and I need a DS.

**Signed Hermila Sanchez Dear Santa,**  
I want three thing's please can i get a bike from walmart and a air conditioner from anywher from a place any place and something eles from walmart braceles from walmart thats all I want okay Santa cause thats all I want from Walmart thats all want from walmart.

**Signed Priscilla Gomez Dear Santa,**  
I want a i pod for chrismas and a gitar for chrismas, and adog.

**Signed Wyatt Dear Santa,**  
What I want for Chirstmas is a Mp3 player, and aipod, and a cover and a fack dog and stuff and melse and coloring books to and Littlelist pet shop to and thats all.

**Signed Alley Nunez Dear Santa,**  
I want a starwars jet for chrismas and so i could play with my brothers.

**Signed Adam White Mrs. Tracy Phillips' Class Dear Santa,**  
What I've realy wanted for Christmas is a webkinz magical retriever trading card set.I also want freaky body ilusion. And smore. the pony.(From fur-real friends.)And I want My Sims King-dom.And a lil kinz panda.And also a webkinz seahorse too.And I want my family to have the best Christmas ever.  
**Signed Christine G.**

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a mokeintroll are-plane, a video game for PS2, a mokeintroll forwiller, a PS3 and vidio games for PS3 and a toy transformer.  
**Signed Brandon S. Dear Santa,**  
I want a 4weeler go cart a pair uv bots a beat with wees on the botum a gatar a clarianet a very stong magnet brown washout hari die and a inint  
**Signed Clay S. Dear Santa,**  
I want a wii andawii game could wisport. and I want a wii game could poke'mon battle reve-lation and a gameboyAnd a psp. I want poke'mon card Diamend of Pearl. playstatoin two.  
**Signed Jose R. Dear Santa,**  
I wish I could have my footBall and my Football Jersey even that Hotrodcontrol car.  
**Signed Allen W. Dear Santa,**  
I am so happythat you are 2 slobrading withthehol 3 wold and that you are cool 4 and youhave cool raindeerst-hat fly. Im so 5 clad that you ring presents to all of usin 6 Amarka and some toys to like an xbox360 and 7 closandshos and thos littl-cards andbike and 8 a switer and awii and all the-gams and a neckles 9 and a wache and all the jairy and that i was rech. and yumader you are cool merry chesmis Ho Ho Ho.  
**Signed Carlos H. Dear Santa,**  
I whanta phon a pet and a spshil crismis.that is all I want for crismis. santa  
**Signed Megan B. Dear Santa,**  
I want a dirt,bike anda for wiler and agot cart and a bike and a petit Gun then a Shot Gun then I want a Reming ten and a gof cart and a BeBe gun and ms ungreit to be are techer and Phip2 to be our

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a mokeintroll are-plane, a video game for PS2, a mokeintroll forwiller, a PS3 and vidio games for PS3 and a toy transformer.  
**Signed Justin O. Dear Santa,**  
I wantatoy's plesegive meatoy's lbelieveinyouloveSantatryto-getmesomethingsomething exitingthatwalld wantsomuchl-willPlayWithtevertime I,m boredIwillplaywithit  
**Signed Angel L. Dear Santa,**  
What I want for crismis is a ro-bot parot with a mewrote. I hope it can fly up on my sholder and sit on it. I hope you have it. Love Becky Coffey.  
**Signed Becky C. Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would really really really like a ben10 watch where he turns in to a alien in the show it would be alsome to have it and there is one more thing I really really really want for chistmas is a interconitle championship.  
**Love, Brenden D. Dear Santa,**  
I would like a cool bike for my house.  
I would like a new ajinda folder and a poster formy room. Thats what I want.  
**Love, Makayla W. Dear Santa,**  
I wold like to have for cerismas. is the Best cerismes ever. And I wold like for cerismes is a gutar and a beran new bike. And i wish that can see you and your dear's to and your elf's to and my Best Hol Day is cerismas to.  
**Signed Logan P. Dear Santa,**  
I hope you can get all the pres-ents I asked for.And for chrismas I want my tooth to come out. I will allway remender to put milk and cookies on the caner for you. I hope you can get me a bean bag char for chrismas. I hope you have a safe trip.  
**Signed Brook S.**

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a mokeintroll are-plane, a video game for PS2, a mokeintroll forwiller, a PS3 and vidio games for PS3 and a toy transformer.  
**Signed Justin O. Dear Santa,**  
I wantatoy's plesegive meatoy's lbelieveinyouloveSantatryto-getmesomethingsomething exitingthatwalld wantsomuchl-willPlayWithtevertime I,m boredIwillplaywithit  
**Signed Angel L. Dear Santa,**  
What I want for crismis is a ro-bot parot with a mewrote. I hope it can fly up on my sholder and sit on it. I hope you have it. Love Becky Coffey.  
**Signed Becky C. Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I would really really really like a ben10 watch where he turns in to a alien in the show it would be alsome to have it and there is one more thing I really really really want for chistmas is a interconitle championship.  
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**Signed Brook S.**

techer and awee and a exbox 360 anda Plashon 3 and a xbox and turke and a DS and a Gam boy adydns.

**Love Justin Signed Justin O. Dear Santa,**  
I wantatoy's plesegive meatoy's lbelieveinyouloveSantatryto-getmesomethingsomething exitingthatwalld wantsomuchl-willPlayWithtevertime I,m boredIwillplaywithit  
**Signed Angel L. Dear Santa,**  
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**Signed Logan P. Dear Santa,**  
I hope you can get all the pres-ents I asked for.And for chrismas I want my tooth to come out. I will allway remender to put milk and cookies on the caner for you. I hope you can get me a bean bag char for chrismas. I hope you have a safe trip.  
**Signed Brook S.**



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\*Items currently dotted at 70% off or above will remain at that discount. Items currently dotted at 50% off or lower will take 70% off it's original price. \*\*Excludes Yankee Candle Hutch.

# Are You On Medicare?

*Add \$1,156 to Your  
Social Security Check  
Every Year\**



*The QHP Advantage Plan  
Does That and More...*

- No Deductible
- No Plan Premium
- Hospital Coverage
- No Deductible Drug Coverage
- Fitness Club Membership
- Transportation Reimbursement
- Dental Care
- Hearing and Vision Care

*Call Now to Reserve Your Seat  
at One of Our Seminars*

REF #:ON122408

**Call Toll Free**

**1-866-747-9017**

**TTY: 1-866-455-6010**

**QHP**  
Quality Health Plans

An HMO with a Medicare contract available to anyone enrolled in Part B and entitled to Part A of Medicare through age or disability who continues to pay any applicable Medicare premiums. Members must use network providers except for emergency, urgently needed, or out-of-area dialysis services. \* Your monthly Part B Premium paid by you is returned to you in your Social Security check. A sales representative will be present with information and applications. Responding to this ad or attending one of our seminars will constitute permission for us to call you. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium **and/or** co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1, 2010. Please contact Quality Health Plans for details. For accommodation of persons with special needs call 1-866-747-2700, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday. H5402 QHP0973FU(12/08)

# Classifieds



Free Ads Free Speech

## newszap.com

### How to place your ad:

# Create Your Own Ads Online! Three weeks FREE... It's Easy!

## All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!

### Submit Your Free Classified Ad Today at WWW.NEWSZAP.COM - Click on Classifieds

Published 3 weeks in all of our Florida papers: Coloosa Belle, Clewiston News, Glades County Democrat, Immokalee Bulletin, Okeechobee News, and The Sun  
\* Ads will run in the Wednesday Okeechobee News and weekly publications.

#### BUSINESS HOURS

- ✓ Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- DEADLINES**
- ✓ Wednesday 11 a.m. Tuesday for Wednesday publication
- ✓ Friday 11 a.m. Thursday for Friday publication
- ✓ Sunday Friday 10 a.m. for Sunday publication

#### GUIDELINES FOR PLACING FREE ADS!

- All personal items under \$5,000 ABSOLUTELY FREE!
- Price must be included in ad
- Private parties only
- 2 items per household per issue

### Announcements 100

Important Information: Please read your ad carefully the first day it appears. In case of an inadvertent error, please notify us prior to the deadline listed. We will not be responsible for more than 1 incorrect insertion, or for more than the extent of the ad rendered useless by such errors. Advertiser assumes responsibility for all statements, names and content of an ad, and assumes responsibility for any claims against Independent Newspapers. All advertising is subject to publisher's approval. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any or all copy, and to insert above the copy the word "advertisement". All ads accepted are subject to credit approval. All ads must conform to Independent Newspapers' style and are restricted to their proper classifications. Some classified categories require advance payment. These classifications are denoted with an asterisk \*.

Independent Newspapers will never knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs or other offers to send money in advance for a product or service - we advise you to check with the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Line at 1-800-220-5424, and/or The Better Business Bureau, 800-464-6331 for previous complaints.

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### Special Notice 0155

Run your ad STATEWIDE and SAVE \$\$\$! Run your classified ad in over 100 Florida newspapers reaching over 4 MILLION readers for \$475 - that is less than \$4 per newspaper. Call this newspaper or (866)742-1373 for more details or visit [www.florida-classifieds.com](http://www.florida-classifieds.com).

### Employment 200

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### Job Information 0225

**Driver - Join PTL today!** Company Drivers earn up to 40 cpm. 1/2cpm increase every 60K miles. Average 2,800 miles/week. CDL-A required. [www.ptl-inc.com](http://www.ptl-inc.com) Call (877)740-6262

**DRIVERS-ASAP!** Sign-On Bonus 35-41cpm Earn over \$1000 weekly Excellent Benefits Need CDL-A & 3 mos recent OTR (877)258-8782 [www.mel-tontruck.com](http://www.mel-tontruck.com)

**NOW AVAILABLE!** 2009 POST OFFICE JOBS. \$18-\$20/HR. NO EXPERIENCE. PAID TRAINING, FED BENEFITS, VACATIONS. CALL (800)910-9941 TODAY! REF #FL08.

Love the earth Recycle your used items by selling them in the classifieds.

### Special Notice 0155

**CASTLE**  
The Parenting Professionals  
Support our fight for the prevention of child abuse  
Call (863) 467-7771

### Adoptions 0102

**Pregnant? Considering adoption?** A successful educated woman seeks to adopt, and needs your help! Will be a loving full-time mom. Financial security. Expenses paid. Call Lisa. (800) 900-2980, pin 00. FL Bar# 0150789.

### Lost 0135

**BLONDE LAB** - Approx 2 yr. old male. Lost in vic. of Clewiston. Dearly missed. Please call (863)805-2822

**DOG** - black & brown female, 5 lbs, spayed, vic of Country Meadows, needs medication. (863)675-3381

**SHIH TZU/MALTESE** - male, white, tan patches on body and tan/black on ears, vic of Belmont area in LaBelle (863)675-2762 / 675-0761

### Giveaway 0140

**CATS** - Free to a good home. 2 beautiful cats. Neutered and shots current. Leave a message if no answer. (863)467-4994

**DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** RECEIVE \$1000 GROCERY COUPON UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION Free Mammograms, Breast Cancer Info [www.ubcfinc.org](http://www.ubcfinc.org) FREE Towing, Tax Deductible, Non-Runners Accepted, (888)468-5964.

**FREE CUR** dog - Female 1 1/2 yr. cur dog. Needs lots of room to run. Good with kids. (863)634-4766

**FREE TO GOOD HOME**-Male-Short hair mix, needs a yard to run, about 10 months old. (863)467-0222

**MALE CHIHAWA** - 6 months old Free to good home (863)484-2111

**SHED** - 1977, metal, 810 sq. ft., to be removed from lot, can be reassembled or sold for scrap. (561)697-1821

### Special Notice 0155

**CASTLE**  
The Parenting Professionals  
Support our fight for the prevention of child abuse  
Call (863) 467-7771

### Job Information 0225

**Trainers Wanted** 50 yr old Distribution Company looking for online trainers. Teach over the internet. Flexible hours, work from home [www.FutureFreedom.net](http://www.FutureFreedom.net).

### Financial 300

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- Tax Preparation 315

### Business Opportunities 0305

**100% RECESSION PROOF!** Do you earn \$800 in a day? 25 Local Machines and Candy \$9,995. (888)629-9968 B02000033 CALL US: We will not be undersold!

\$3,000 to \$7000 Weekly Potential Returning Phone Calls. Full Training and Support 24/7 NO Selling NO MLM (866)391-3048 [www.liv-ericheasy.com](http://www.liv-ericheasy.com)

### Reading a Newspaper

**READING A NEWSPAPER MAKES YOU A MORE INFORMED AND INTERESTING PERSON.**  
No wonder newspaper readers are more popular!

### Business Opportunities 0305

**NOTICE**  
Independent Newspapers will never accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 772-878-2010 for previous complaints.

Some 800 and 900 telephone numbers may require an extra charge, as well as long distance toll costs. We will do our best to alert our reader of these charges in the ads, but occasionally we may not be aware of the charges. Therefore, if you call a number out of your area, use caution.

### Services 400

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### Handyman Services

**DEE'S MINOR REPAIR & Pressure Washing**  
Cool Sealing, Painting, Carpentry & Much More!  
No Job Too Big or Small.  
(863)467-2917  
or (863)261-6425  
License # 5698 & #1126

### Top Soil

**JACK'S TOP SOIL**  
Fill Dirt/Shell Rock & Bob Cat work.  
Call 863-467-4734

**READING A NEWSPAPER...**  
saves you money by providing information about best buys.  
No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

### Reading a Newspaper

**READING A NEWSPAPER...**  
saves you money by providing information about best buys.  
No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

### Handyman Services

**? NEED HELP ? CALL GEORGE CARTER**  
Painting, Repairs, Carpentry Power Washing  
**FREE CONSULTATION**  
(863)763-4775

**READING A NEWSPAPER...**  
saves you money by providing information about best buys.  
No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

### Reading a Newspaper

**READING A NEWSPAPER...**  
saves you money by providing information about best buys.  
No wonder newspaper readers earn more!

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- Wanted to Buy 740

### Air Conditioners 0505

**AIR COND/HEATER** - Lennox 5 ton, mobile home pkg, 10 KW heat, 60K BTU, 13.0 Seer, \$2700 (863)634-5759

**CONDENSER UNIT** 2 1/2 ton - 2005 Trane 2.5 ton condenser I can install for \$200 \$850. (863)673-0920

### Antiques 0510

**ANTIQUE JOHN DEER - LAWN TRACTOR**. Excellent condition. \$1200. (863)467-1930

**LARGE ANTIQUE** Coffee Table \$250. One small antique end table \$50. (863)763-5501

**SINGER SEWING** machine - Singer sewing machine with cabinet/table, good condition. \$100. (863)467-5299

### Appliances 0515

**DRYER, MAYTAG** - Electric, good condition, \$50. (772) 971-9474

**FRIGIDWARE** - Side by side refrigerator, electric, will sell together or separate \$175. (863)763-1377

**LARGE KENMORE** refrigerator-Black side by side, Indoor ice/water dispenser. \$275. (863)532-9789

**MICROWAVE** - goldstar \$12. (863)467-4567

**STOVE** - Ge white electric stove very good condition. \$125. (239)935-9601

**WHIRLPOOL DOUBLE OVEN** - WORKS GOOD \$50. (863)697-6135

### Barns Sheds & Lawn Items 0522

**HORSE TROUGH** - Rubbermaid 50 Gallon. \$40/firm. (863)675-1138 LaBelle

### Bicycles 0530

**MOTORIZED BICYCLE** - 2 cycle engine. Cost \$900 asking \$400 (863)467-4551

### Wanted To Buy 0740

**We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins**  
**Elliot's Pawn Shop**  
419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

### Bicycles 0530

**SCHWINN STINGRAY** - Boys Schwinn Stingray 24" bicycle in great condition \$60. (863)763-6640

**THREE WHEELED** bicycle - \$75. (863)467-4567

### Building Materials 0540

**PLASTIC CULVERT** - 30 inch by 20ft. cash \$450. (863)634-2303

### Children's Items 0555

**GRACO** - 3 in 1 bed, white metal, like new. \$100. Call (863)763-7609 Okeechobee

**STORKCRAFT ASPEN BABY CRIB** - 3 in 1 crib with drawer & mattress \$100 (863)763-7983

### Clothing 0565

**SZ 12 Dress** - Light blue sleeveless tea length custom maid chiffon/satin material \$75. (863)697-2705

**WEDDING DRESS** SZ 12-14 - White with ice blue trim hand embroidered w/sequins. \$600/neg. (863)697-2705

### Collectibles 0575

**FOOTBALL CARDS** - 3000+ cards variety of years great gift. \$75. (863)634-2131

**HIGHWAYMEN PAINTING**- James Gibson 16x20 no frame \$250. Firm 467-0139 or 801-4699. Okeechobee

**THREE MCDONALDS** Train Sets, Still in boxes. asking \$150. Also 20 Piece Teapot collection \$250 (863)763-5501

### Computer/Supplies 0580

**DELL LAPTOP** - INSPIRON 1521 1 YR OLD, SPRING GREEN \$450/or best offer. (863)634-0272

### Crafts/Supplies 0585

**WOOD LATHE** - 38 inch rail, cut diameter 12" some tools \$75. (863)234-1344 (863)612-9233

### Furniture 0610

**CHAISE CHAIR** & Christmas houses - chair seats 2 people easy, good cond \$100.00 obo. 10 christmas houses w/ alot of acc. \$40.00 obo. \$140/or best offer. (863)357-2816 (863)447-0965

**COMPUTER ARMOIRE** - Wrap around doors with lots of storage. LaBelle \$35. (863)517-1663

**DARK BLUE** couderdryer lazy boy recliner - 2 years old, Excellent shape \$125. (863)675-1999

**DINING ROOM** table, 4 armchairs & buffet - Excellent cond. must sell \$250/or best offer. (863)677-1208

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** - storage space, drawer, shelves. LaBelle \$30. (863)517-1663

**LG. BUNK** bed/dresser/desk - Exc. cond. Rarely Used. Pd 1200 \$700/or best offer. (863)532-0257

**MATTRESS & BOX SPRINGS - BADCOCK** , Full size. Good condition. \$100 or best offer. (863)634-6087 Anytime.

**OAK COMPUTER** Armoire - Cognac color stain...some scratches...solid...has electric and phone hookup with pull out desk. \$300/neg. (863)673-0496

**PATIO BAR** - Formica, 3 doors & 2 shelves with 4 high back swivel wicker stools. \$225. (863)763-6640

**SOFA** BED - Berkline queen newly re-upholstered. \$200/or best offer. (863)467-0164

### Wanted To Buy 0740

**We Buy Scrap Gold, Silver and Coins**  
**Elliot's Pawn Shop**  
419 W S Park St • (863) 763-5553

### Furniture 0610

**NEW FURNITURE FOR LESS!!**  
DRIVE A LITTLE SAVE A LOT

Lamps \$17, 100 Barstools \$39 up, 50 Desks \$97 up, 3Pc Dropleaf Dinette \$197, 50 Table and 4 Chairs \$397 up, 200 Recliners \$297 up, 50 2pc Sofa & Loveseat sets \$687 up, 50 TV Ent. Centers \$167 up, 2 Pc Queen Bed set \$297 up, 50 4Pc Bedroom sets \$387 up, 3Pc Livingroom tables \$97up, 100 headboards \$79 up

### Highpoint Furniture Outlet Store

2346 U.S. 27 N Sebring, FL (Next to Lowe's & across from Home Depot)

### Recliner Chair

**RECLINER CHAIR** burgundy good condition - \$25. (863)467-9040

**TRIPLE DRESSER** - White French Provincial \$75. (863)675-2145

**WHITE BROYHILL-BR** Set, King headboard, Dresser w/mirror, Armoire \$350 for all (863)532-9789

### Furs 0615

**BLUE FOX** Fur - size 8, cleaned & conditioned, paid \$1000 call after 6 \$600/firm. (863)763-0141

### Golf Clubs/Equipment 0618

**GOLF CLUBS** - 4 sets, 1 left handed, metal woods, irons, putter, bag, balls, \$390 will sell sep. (863)946-3123

### Guns/Supplies 0619

**7MM MAUSER** Carbine Bolt Action - Military Sporterized Rifle, Ft. Pierce \$200. (772)461-8822

**INTERARMS 270** - Scope & sling, exc. cond. \$325. Call 863-467-4328

**M1A RIFLE** - Springfield Army M1A. Never fired pre-ban. \$1600/neg. (863)673-3893

**SHOT GUN** - Browning, A2000 12 gage mag., Automatic. Like new. Only shot 2x's. \$340 (863)612-1211

### Health & Reducing Equipment 0620

**AB LOUNGE** - Excellent condition, no dvd \$60. (863)675-1999

**BOWFLEX ULTIMATE** - EXCELLENT CONDITION. LOCATED IN OKEECHOBEE. MANUALS INCLUDED. \$1000. (863)634-0099

**WEIDER PRO** club weight bench/weight set - 300lb weight set \$350. (863)885-1172

### Outdoor Furniture 0648

**OUTDOOR FURNITURE** - Portable sinks \$295, Benches, Amoire's & Antique pieces. (863)467-4650

### Medical Items 0650

**FREE HEARING TEST Set for Senior Citizens**

**Beltone**  
Helping the world hear better  
**863-763-9700**  
3268 US Hwy 441 S  
Inside Winn Dixie Plaza

**BLUE ELECTRIC** Recliner lift chair \$350. Great shape. (863)697-0143

### Medical Items 0650

**Feeling Anxious** About The Future? Buy and read Dianetics by L. Ron Hubbard. Price: \$20.00. Order Now. Free Shipping. [www.DianeticsTampa.org](http://www.DianeticsTampa.org) or Call (813)872-0722.

### Miscellaneous 0655

**AIRLINES ARE HIRING** - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Housing available. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (888)349-5387.

**ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE** from Home. \*Medical, \*Business, \*Paralegal, \*Computers, \*Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call (866)858-2121, [www.CenturaOnline.com](http://www.CenturaOnline.com).

**BRAND NEW** - 2 sheets of foam rubber in plastic 3x55x78 \$50. Each (863)763-8761

**Like New Craftsman** Portable Generator 5600 Watt 8600 Surge 10 HP OHV \$375. (863)610-1811 Okeechobee

**MASSAGER** - Brookstone, 5 spgs. of intensity. Adaptor for auto use. Like new. \$40 (863)763-7609 Okeechobee

**OLD RECORDS** - 33's & 45's collection in great shape. (tho dusty) call after 6pm. \$50. (863)357-1236

**OLD RECORDS** - 33 1/3 RPM, Brubeck, Shearing, For Freshman & Sinatra .10 cents each. (863)357-4195

Waterfront Rentals 0965

Waterfront Rentals 0965

PRIVATE WATERFRONT RENTALS From \$700 Month

- \* Key West 1/1 Furnished Cottage - Dade County Pine Hardwood Floors - a/dorable wrap around porch on Taylor Creek
\* Cute 2/1 fully furnished, screen porch overlooks huge Cypress trees - Private & quiet - right on Taylor Creek
\* Gorgeous setting on Taylor Creek, 2bd/1ba, fully furnished, washer dryer. Huge fenced in backyard-Concrete boat ramp.
\* Beautiful sunsets with this 2/2 on wide rim canal, tile floors - washer/dryer, huge storage shed, big fenced yard. Tropical setting. Rent towards purchase w/10% dn. (863) 467-8683 - (772) 215-1680

Houses - Rent 0930

HOUSE 3BR/2BA - sits on 1.25 acres, located in Prairie/Viking. Pets welcome! (561)718-1212
IN OKEECHOBEE CITY: 4 Br/ 2ba, \$1100 mo + 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call Barry for more info. 772-216-1461
OKEECHOBEE - 3/1/1den, close to downtown. \$1000/mo. Call Charles (863) 634-0584
OKEECHOBEE - New, 3br, 2ba, 2 acres in Edwards Sub, \$1,200/mo. Call Charles (863)634-0584
OKEECHOBEE, 3br, 2ba, with garage. C/Air. Lazy 7 area. 1st, last & sec. 863-467-2541

Office Space Rent 0937

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT: 320 sq. ft. for \$500 mo. with option to use 900 sq. ft. Board room & kitchen. 144 sq. ft. for \$300 mo. with option to use 900 sq. ft. Board room & kitchen. CALL 863-763-3101

Waterfront Rentals 0965

WATERFRONT: 2BR, 1 1/2 BA Treasure Island. Fenced yard. \$765 mo. (772) 359-6584 mardelivar@comcast.net.

Real Estate 1000

READING A NEWSPAPER... makes you a more informed and interesting person. No wonder newspaper readers are more successful!
BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION - 4BR/2BA, Near lake access on Hwy. 441, 2 car garage & storage, big lots w/space for garden, all credit considered, \$149,900. Call (520) 360-1893
CROOKED CREEK Corner Lot. 2.2 acres, \$95K OBO Call 772-530-2095 or 863-467-6399
4BR, 2 bath home with 3000 square feet. Great location in Moultrie, GA... Has lots of upgrades... Superb neighborhood! 269,900... Call Norris Bishop Realty @ (229)890-1186.
MID TENN MTNS By Owner, 5 acres, perfect mountaintop cabin-site w/woods. Small stream in back of property. A must see! \$26,900. Owner Financing (931)445-3611.
NC LAND LIQUIDATION! Mountain and Coastal Estates up to \$80,000 OFF! Prices from \$29,900! Asheville and Boone area properties. (800)455-1981, ext.103. www.landsteals.com
TENNESSEE LAND RUSH! 1+acre to 2acre homesites, wood, views. Starting at \$59,900. Tenn River & Nick-a-Jack view tracts now available! Retirement guide rates this area #2 in U.S. places to retire. Low cost of living, no impact fee. (330)699-2741 or (866)550-5263, Ask About Mini Vacation!

Professional Class A office space

Great Location 441 S. 300-1200 sq ft. Call for details 561-436-2020

Mobile Home Rent 2015

INDIANTOWN - Cottage, 1BR, 1BA, \$750 mo. Includes electric & water. 1, 2 & 3 BR - All include city water, some electric. \$425-\$550 mo. 1st, last, sec. & refs. Call (561)346-4692/346-4692
OKEE: New 2br/2ba on private lot, on T.Ck. \$650/mo. 1st & sec. Avail Now. No pets. Call (561)767-6111
TREASURE ISLAND - 3br, 2ba dbl w/d, waterfront, lake access, 1yr old, \$800/mo (954)410-5345
TREASURE ISLAND, 2br, 2ba Lake access, quiet area. No pets. \$600/mo., 1st, last & sec. dep. (561)743-4331

Mobile Home Sale 2020

BANK REPO'S MOVE TO YOUR LAND Mobile Home Angels 561-721-2230
MANUFACTURED HOME PARK 55+ La Belle, Florida GATED, Clubhouse, Heated Pool. Lease your 60 x 90 lot, beautiful country living, in-laudable lot, lawn service, water, sewer and trash pickup, \$200/mo. Models available for immediate occupancy or order your own on your lot. 30 minutes from Ft Myers. M-F, 863-675-7555.
RIVERBEND ADULT PARK- Very clean 2/2 on lg beautiful landscaped corner lot, part furn, many upgrades, Carport, Screen room, Front porch, Utility shed \$26,500 (863)763-2634 or 863-610-1296

Business Places - Sale 1005

Commercial Property - Sale 1010
Condos/ Townhouses - Sale 1015
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Resort Property - Sale 1070
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Waterfront Property 1080

Houses - Sale 1025

Brand New Construction - 4BR/2BA, Near lake access on Hwy. 441, 2 car garage & storage, big lots w/space for garden, all credit considered, \$149,900. Call (520) 360-1893
CROOKED CREEK Corner Lot. 2.2 acres, \$95K OBO Call 772-530-2095 or 863-467-6399
4BR, 2 bath home with 3000 square feet. Great location in Moultrie, GA... Has lots of upgrades... Superb neighborhood! 269,900... Call Norris Bishop Realty @ (229)890-1186.
MID TENN MTNS By Owner, 5 acres, perfect mountaintop cabin-site w/woods. Small stream in back of property. A must see! \$26,900. Owner Financing (931)445-3611.
NC LAND LIQUIDATION! Mountain and Coastal Estates up to \$80,000 OFF! Prices from \$29,900! Asheville and Boone area properties. (800)455-1981, ext.103. www.landsteals.com
TENNESSEE LAND RUSH! 1+acre to 2acre homesites, wood, views. Starting at \$59,900. Tenn River & Nick-a-Jack view tracts now available! Retirement guide rates this area #2 in U.S. places to retire. Low cost of living, no impact fee. (330)699-2741 or (866)550-5263, Ask About Mini Vacation!

Land - Sale 1040

Brand New Construction - 4BR/2BA, Near lake access on Hwy. 441, 2 car garage & storage, big lots w/space for garden, all credit considered, \$149,900. Call (520) 360-1893
CROOKED CREEK Corner Lot. 2.2 acres, \$95K OBO Call 772-530-2095 or 863-467-6399
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Recreation 3000

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Campers/RVs 3010
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Marine Miscellaneous 3025
Motorcycles 3030
Sport Vehicles/ATVs 3035

Boats 3005

AIR BOAT-STOSSELL HULL, Decked over, with trailer, as is, no motor or prop \$3000 OBO (863)763-7174
BULLET 22' BASSBOAT 1997 - 200hp rude fast hull 80+mph needs work \$3000. (561)261-0658
LOWE PONTON 1994 - Large pontoons, 70hp Johnson, runs perfect \$3000 or best offer. (863)634-8007
OPEN BOW BOAT, 17 Ft. w/ Trailer, \$300 FIRM (863)763-0812
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# Swim team honored for breaking school records



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Savannah Asmussen took home the girls' MVP award at the annual swim team banquet.

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Seven regional qualifiers, one sophomore swimmer already with two school records, and two girls that both broke school records in the same event this year, were honored when the Brahma swim team held their annual banquet Wednesday night at the High School cafeteria.

It was an eventful first season for Coach Nicole Johnson and assistant coach Brian Turner. They started out with a lot of early mornings. The team held morning practices as early as 4:30 a.m. They worked hard and tried to change the culture of the program.

"We wanted to become a team that won and nobody noticed," he said.

Coach Turner said great improvements were made this year as all of the swimmers set personal best times in various events. He noted the kids believed in what the coaches were trying to do and came a long way.

Turner said an example of their improvement came in swim meets against Sebring this year. In the early part of the season Sebring blasted Okeechobee. Later in the year in another swim meet, Okeechobee battled Sebring very well.

"At the beginning we were no-

where near a swim team. At the end of the season, Sebring had to say, we are in trouble," he said.

Coach Johnson said she also got a lot of positive comments from opposing coaches. She noted she required a lot from the swimmers and that their hard work paid off.

All of the swimmers received letters and certificates of achievement for their participation this year.

Turner said they are in the initial stages of building a winning program here and that it will take some time. He said this year was a good first step.

"We came a long way. We started off not knowing a lot about swimming in general. In the end, our biggest accomplishments were breaking the school records."

Savannah Asmussen broke the records in the 500 yard free style and the 100 yard back stroke. For that performance she was named the girls' most valuable swimmer.

"I'm honored to have won the award. I worked real hard to do what I can do," she noted.

Asmussen said her goal next year is to qualify for state. She was just one second short of qualifying this year in her sophomore season.

"I practiced real hard. It was an honor to improve my times this year," she added.

Nathan Candler was named the boy's most valuable player.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Coach Turner with girls' Brahma award winner Celena Letcher.

He earned a trip to the regional swim meet and actually qualified for regional during the four years of his high school career.

"It feels good. This is my senior year and this is a great way to end it. Everyone tried their hardest this year and made as many practices as they could. There were some big improvements and the results we had really showed the effort we put in."

Alex Ming broke the school record in the 100 yard breast stroke this year. The record didn't stand up for long as teammate Celena Letcher broke it later in the year.

Other awards went to Savannah Whitlock for most improved swimmer for the girls and Ben

Kielbasa for most improved for the boys. Letcher earned the girl's Brahma award and Kenny Murphy the boy's Brahma award.

Members of the team this year included Lucas Hawthorne, Chelsie Houston, Savannah Asmussen, Randi Barnes, Victoria Bostic, Sarah Hawthorne, Tessa Delcampo, Robbi Erwin, Jessica Wackler, Michelle Fischer, Nathan Candler, Justin Juback, Teal Sheffield, Damon Heater, Kenny Murphy, Savannah Whitlock, Jaiden Barnhart, Celena Letcher and Alex Ming.

Sheffield and Candler were captains this year.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Nathan Candler took home the boys' MVP award at the swim team banquet.



Okeechobee News/Charles Murphy  
Swim Coach Brian Turner talks about boys' Brahma award winner Kenny Murphy (left).

# Boy's basketball win Holiday Kennel Classic game

**By Charles M. Murphy**  
Okeechobee News

Victories over John Carroll High School and Benjamin High School gave Okeechobee High School

the championship of Southland Christian's Holiday Basketball tournament in West Palm Beach this past weekend.

It was the first title, district or

tournament, for Coach Jon Enrico. He noted that was a good feeling for his squad. "It was big for the kids. Everybody stepped up. We've been close to winning before, but it is good for a program to have a title. The kids' confidence will get a boost."

Okeechobee (5-4) defeated John Carroll 77-68 on Friday as Corey White and David Jeune paved the way with 19 points apiece. Terrance Allen had 15 points and Matt Skipper added 10 points in the victory. Austin Willard and Troy Harper each had six points and Joey Voss had four points for Okeechobee.

Okeechobee won despite the heroics of Luke Walters of John Carroll. He scored 42 points to lead the Golden Rams (1-6).

Okeechobee scored 31 points in the final quarter to pull away. They also shot well at the free throw line, (17-22).

Okeechobee won the championship Saturday afternoon in a tight battle with Benjamin. The game was close until the final five seconds when Allen intercepted an inbounds pass and drove the length of the court for a buzzer beating layup.

Benjamin won 20 games last year and traditionally is one of the better small schools in the state. Enrico said they were a smart team that was very strong fundamentally. Okeechobee got a scare late in the game as Jeune was struck in the mouth with an elbow. He had to get six stitches to his mouth after the game. He also sat for half of the final quarter.

"The kids got the lead back and held it to finish the game. This was a real team win," Enrico noted.

Coach Jon Enrico said his entire team played very well in the tournament. Jeune scored 23 points and added 14 rebounds in the championship game. He was named the tournament most valuable player. Corey White scored 12 points on Saturday and was

also named to the all tournament team. Allen had 11 points and Skipper seven points in the championship game. The squad also shot 11-15 from the charity stripe.

Okeechobee also got some contributions from Ricky Nieto who has battled a leg injury. He is expected to be back at full strength in January.

Okeechobee will play this weekend at the Rock Holiday Classic at Windemere Prep in Orlando. Games begin on Saturday. Okeechobee will meet Lincoln County High School out of Kentucky in the first round. Other teams in the tournament include

Lakeland Kathleen, North Broward Prep, Gateway-Kissimmee, Freedom-Orlando, Wellston, Ohio, and Riverdale Country School out of the Bronx, New York. Games will be played on Saturday, Dec. 27, Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30.



Okeechobee News/Chauna Aguilar

## Runner of the Year

Eddie Guerrero (right) received the honor of the Treasure Lake District Runner of the Year for 2008 Cross Country Season. He was joined at the school board meeting to receive this honor by his coach Mike Schilt (left).



Submitted photo/Betty Bockoras

## Keep Christ in Christmas

David Jr. and Lisa Bockoras of S.W. 16th St. are keeping Christ in Christmas. This year David decided to make a cross out of some scrap pieces of pvc pipe. Standing about 20 feet tall with a manger scene at the base, the cross signifies the ultimate purpose that Jesus was born, and that the Christmas story does not end on Dec. 25.

**Ricardo J. Quintero-Herencia, MD**

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